# STARS STRIPES.



**Expanded USO** lounge coming soon at Ramsteir 'Simpsons' actor finds she can handle 'More'

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2005

# Patriot missile crews head to Israel for joint exercises

Air defense training unrelated to Middle East conflict, V Corps says



**Combating stress** of coming home Page 4

eer Battalion, get personnel assistance from Spc. Yohaira Miranda, left foreground, and rg. Germany. Polec and Licon were going through reintegration training, a seven-day program that helps 1st Infantry Division soldiers returning from Iraq get their paperwork in order and ease back into life at home. Troops can go on leave after completing the program

## STARS STRIPES.

#### COMING SOON



Paintball becomes



Vin Diesel stars in 'The Pacifier'

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

#### States

Immigrant smuggling trial: Survivors of the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt have said they pounded and screamed as they tried to let Tyrone Williams know they were

dying inside his sweltering tractor-trailer. Williams didn't let them out for four more hours as he transported them from South Texas in May 2003, prosecutors said. By then, 17 of the more than 70 illegal immigrants inside had died from dehydration, hy-

perthermia and suffocation.

Opening arguments were set for Tuesday in Williams' much-delayed trial.

Firebomb arrests: A man and two sisters were arrested in an attempted arson allegedly linked to an eco-terror group that targeted residential and commercial construction

sites in California, authorities said Monday. The Christmas Day incident was the first of three attempted or successful attacks on buildings under construction in towns east

of Sacramento.
Arrested Monday was Jeremiah Colcleasure, 24, while Eva R. Holland, 25, and Lili M. Holland, 20, were arrested Friday. All live in Newcastle. The three face conspiracy to commit arson, which carries a minimum 10-vear and maximum 40-vear sentence.

Beauty queen shooting: A jury was cho-

sen Monday for the murder trial of a Savannah, Ga., beauty queen who fatally shot her two-timing boyfriend outside the other woman's house.

Sharron N. Redmond, 23, faces life in prison if convicted in the slaying of Kevin Shorter during a confrontation four months after Redmond was crowned Miss Savannah.

was crowned Miss Savannah. She has admitted firing the shot that killed Shorter. Opening statements were set for

Tuesday.

Staten Island ferry crash: Minutes after the ferry Andrew J. Barberi slammed into a Staten Island pier, assistant captain Richard Smith took the blame, allegedly telling ferry supervisor Patrick Ryan, "I blacked out. It's all my fault. I killed all these people."

all my fault. I killed all these people."

In the 17 months since the ship-shredding disaster claimed 11 lives, the National Transportation Safety Board has shifted its focus from Smith's conduct that day to Ryan's sup-

posedly slack grip on the ferry operations. The NTSB was set to issue its final report on the crash Tuesday, including recommendations for changes in ferry operations.

#### World

Philippines murder convictions: The Philippine Supreme Court on Tuesday threw out a petition by soldiers requesting a new trial over their convictions in the 1983 murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr.

The 15 soldiers each are serving two life terms for the murder of Aquino, who was killed while in the custody of soldiers on Aug. 21, 1983, moments after he stepped off a plane bringing him home from exile in the



Toxic railroad loak: Used hazardous material safety gear and suits lie near an emptied rail tanker after it was pumped free of toxic waste Monday in Satt Lake City. The railroad tank car that leaked toxic fumes, forcing some 6,000 people from their homes, was not designed to hold the mixture of highly corresive acids with which it had been filled, the car's owner said Monday. Louic Cononelos, spokesman for Kennecott Utah Copper, said the car was supposed to be used only for hauling sulfuric acid.

United State

The soldiers said a new witness and forensic evidence would clear them. However, the Supreme Court said the new witness merely corroborated the testimony of the defense witnesses during the trial.

Munch art recovered: Police in Oslo, Norway, on Tuesday were holding eight people on suspicion of theft after recovering three stolen works of art by Norwegian master Edvard Munch, including a unique watercolor titled "Blue Dress," officials said.

The artworks, valued at some \$257,000, were found less than 24 hours after thieves pried them loose Sunday night from the walls of a restaurant at the upscale Hotel Refnes, near the southern town of Moss, police said

Officers received a tip that people were seen carrying paintings into an Oslo house.

Asian bird flu: The World Health Organization says seven Vietnamese patients who initially tested negative for bird flu have been found to be carrying the virus after their samples were retested — suggesting that avian influenza may be more widespread than originally believed.

All seven, who were first tested in January, have since recovered, WHO regional spokesman Peter Cordingley said Tuesday. "There's no doubt. The WHO accepts that

"There's no doubt. The WHO accepts that we are missing cases. It's quite possible that some people are falling sick and their symptoms are very light and they don't end up in hospital." he said.

Madrid train bombings: Spanish police arrested a Moroccan on Tuesday described as a close collaborator of key figures in the

Madrid train bombings, officials said.

The Interior Ministry identified him as 21-year-old Jaouad el Bouzrouti and said he was arrested near his home in Fuenlabrada, a Madrid suburb.

In a related story, an association representing victims of the bombings urged Spaniards on Tuesday to let them mourn quietly on the massacre's anniversary. "We feel everybody is watching us. We can't cope with the lack of privacy to cry over our loved ones," said Pilar Manjon, president of the Association of Victims of March 11.

British tsunami victim: Officials in Thailand have formally identified the body of British fashion photographer Simon Atlee, who was killed by the Asian tsunami while vacationing with his girlfriend, Czech supermod el Petra Nemcova an official said Tuesday.

A spokeswoman for the Foreign Office confirmed that the body of Atlee, 33, had been found and was identified on March 3. She said his family were aware and British officials were working on having the body renatriated.

Japan mad cow precautions: Anyone who visited Britain or France for a day or more between 1980 and 1996 will be banned from donating blood in Japan, an official said Tuesday, as the government tightens restrictions on blood supplies because of worries over the human form of mad cow disease.

The rule would bar hundreds of thousands of people from donating blood and may severely diminish blood supplies, media reports warned.

Mexico police trial: A Mexico City judge Monday ordered 19 federal, state and local police officers to stand trial in connection with the slayings of five people who were shot in the head and dumped outside the resort city of Cancun last November.

The group includes federal agents and state police officials assigned to the Cancun area, as well as municipal police employed directly by the resort's city government, according to a statement released by the federal attorney general's office.

They will face charges of "taking advantage of their position as public servants to tolerate and allow third parties to smuggle drugs," as well as transporting and dealing drugs themselves, corruption and organized crime.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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## **U.S. Patriot missile crews heading to Israel**

### Hundreds of Germany-based troops expected to participate in Juniper Cobra exercise

44 There is absolutely no

connection with this

exercise and any event

in the region. 77

**Connie Summers** 

Stars and Strines

U.S. Patriot missile crews stationed in Germany are once again headed to Israel to participate in a joint exercise with the Israeli military.

The exercise, called Juniper Cobra, is set to begin Thursday and continue until mid-April. Its purpose is to develop and improve air defense cooperation between the two nations, said Connie Summers, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Army's V Corps in Heidelberg, Germany.

Roughly 1,000 U.S. troops will participate in the computer-assisted and limited live-fire exercise, with Army soldiers making up the majority of the group

Of the total U.S. force, about 500 soldiers with the 69th Air Defense Artillery Bri-gade based at Giebelstadt Army Airfield in Germany and the brigade's two Patriot battalions will take part in the exercise. The brigade's Patriot battalions are the 5th Battalion, 7th ADA in Hanau, and the 6th Battalion, 52nd ADA headquartered in Ans-

The remaining U.S. force, both active-duty and reserve, is composed of Navy and various commu

nications and logistics support elements from States and Europe, Summers said.

While the timing exercise comes amid increasing tension in the Middle East, Army officials said Tues-

day that the missile exercise had been planned for a year. There is absolutely no connection with

this exercise and any event in the region," Summers said. "As always, we are interested in implementing lessons learned from training exercises.

The deployment of the crews and their missiles is partly a signal to others in the Middle East but largely a reassurance to the Israelis said Michael Desch a political science professor at The Bush School of

Government and Public Service at Texas A&M Univer-

"The symbolic thing is this signals the American commitment to Israeli security," he said. As recently as

January 2003, Pa-triot missile crews were deployed to Israel for the Juniper Cobra exercise. At that point, troops and materials were being deployed steadily to the Middle East in preparation for Opera-

tion Iraqi Freedom. Also, Juniper Cobra took place in February 2001, which coincided with an Israeli prime minister election and continuing strife between Israelis and Palestinians. In both instances, Army officials said the

exercise had been planned a year in advance and was not prompted by the developing situations.

Patriot crews were sent to Israel in November 1998 for exercises. But shortly after arriving, the United States conducted Operation Desert Fox, which resulted in three days of strikes against Iraq sparked by tensions over U.N. weapons in spections

The Patriot missile debuted in combat during the 1991 Persian Gulf War when Iraq fired Scud missiles toward Israel and Saudi Arabia. The high-speed missile was originally designed to strike down jets but was modified to intercept unfriendly mis-

Its success in the Gulf War made the missile a household name in America.

who manages the USO center at the Ramstein Air Base passenger terminal in Germany, talks with Airman 1st Class Jeremiah Robillard on Tuesday about the amenities the center offers. **TriWest Healthcare** Alliance has donated \$350,000 to expand the USO Center at Ramstein.

Ed Edmonds, right,

SCOTT SCHONAUER

## Donation helps Ramstein USO upgrade

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER Stars and Strines

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany - Travelers going through Ramstein Air Base will soon be able to kick back in a new, VIP- style lounge planned for the United Service Organizations Center this summer. TriWest Healthcare Alliance has donated

\$350,000 to expand the center at the base pas senger terminal so it can better serve the influx of traveling troops in and out of the military hub. The new center will be three times

larger, include a 25-seat movie theater, cappuccino bar, a playroom for children and a wireless Internet "hot spot" for Web surfers with laptops

Weary travelers will be able to relax on leather sofas and chairs or take a nap on a row of recliners with a window view of the flight line.

"It's going to give you the feel as if you're in a nice hotel lobby," said Walt Murren, director of the Kaiserslautern USO.

Or a VIP lounge.

It will have many of the amenities of a

airport — minus the full-beverage bar.

The bigger and better USO digs will go to

good use, too.

Ramstein will become the sole military transportation hub for Europe once Rhein-Main Air Base closes in October hoosting the number of servicemembers who use the popular center and making it the busiest on

44 It's going to give you the feel as if you're in a nice hotel lobby.

**Walt Murren** Kaiserslautern USO director

About 32,000 servicemembers a year currently use the USO center in Ramstein, but that number is expected to skyrocket to

The donation, the largest the center has ever received, will also help the USO add staff members to the terminal center, expand operating hours and build a welcome kiosk at the baggage claim area.

Ed Edmonds, who manages the center,

care of the additional passengers. Edmonds, a retired Army sergeant, is one of five paid staff members who work at the center, which provides free beverages, Internet and area information to travelers.

"At times, this place is packed," he said. "You've got people in this room: bags every-

TriWest Healthcare Alliance, based in Phoenix, has partnered with other USO centers in the past and provides health care to U.S. military members and their families in the 21-state Tricare West Region.

"This center will provide America's dedicated servicemembers with

a warm welcome, a comfortable place to rest, relax and contact family members, and receive the assistance they need as they await transport to their next destina-tion," David J. McIntyre Jr., TriWest president and chief executive officer, said in a press release.

The center expansion project is scheduled to be finished in early June, Murren said.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

#### Airman sentenced

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — Senior Airman Jason D. Harper of the 48th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron will be confined for 15 months and given a bad-conduct discharge after admitting the use and distribution of controlled substances, according to the base public affairs of-

Harner who was also reduced in rank to airman basic, entered guilty pleas to wrongful use of co-caine between March 1 and Aug. 1, 2004; wrongful use of Ecstasy between June 1, 2003, and July 31, 2004; and distribution of Ecsta sy between March 1 and July 31.

All of the offenses took place at or near the base. The Ecstasy use also took place at or near Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., base officials said.

A military judge sentenced Harper during a general court-martial Thursday at the base.

#### Soldier bled to death

WATERTOWN, N.Y. - A 22vear-old Fort Drum soldier found dead in her apartment Christmas Day, along with her 11-day-old baby, bled to death as the result of postnatal complications, according to an autopsy.

Spc. Tameka McFarquhar, a native Jamaican who immigrated to Brooklyn, died from loss of blood from placenta retained after the birth of her daughter, Danasia Elizabeth, the Jefferson County Medical Examiner ruled.

A report on the baby's death is not yet complete, but authorities believe McFarquhar died first and the infant likely died from

McFarquhar, a human resources specialist, gave birth Dec. 14 and was discharged the next day Friends and family told authorities they last saw and spoke with

Placenta increta occurs when the placenta attaches itself too deeply in the uterine wall and must be surgically removed. It oc curs in about 1 in 2,500 pregnan-

From staff and wire reports

## Reintegration eases soldiers' return home

BY RICK EMERT Stars and Strings

BAMBERG, Germany — For 1st Infantry Division soldiers coming off of a year of combat in Iraq, returning home can be a shock to the system.

To help them adjust, soldiers go through To help them adjust, soldiers go through the control of the control

The process begins with a day of required duties, such as registering vehicles and getting a meal card.

On Day 2, soldiers gather for briefings and videos on combat stress, winter driving safety and driving in Europe. The driving safety videos are required before soldiers can get their vehicles out of storage, Seaman said.

Day 3 is set aside for soldier and family discussions at the Family Life Center. There are three sessions: couples reunion, reunion with family and friends and communicating with children. While the first and third sessions are geared toward married soldiers, the middle session can be helpful to single soldiers.

"Single soldiers have reintegration issues, too," said Chap. (Maj.) Larry Pundt, Family Life chaplain for Warner Barracks. "There are combat stress issues as well as changes in relationships with girlfriends or with their pals. Sometimes it's like starting all over again.

"A soldier who may have been [a single soldier's] best friend downrange where everybody is 'single,' now is back with his family. It can be difficult to adjust to that."

Day 4 is a catchall for everything from personnel and finance issues to medical and dental screenings, Seaman said.

On Day 5, soldiers visit the dental clinic



CK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Shawn Jones, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, left, gets help from Spc. Antignon Boatwright, 38th Personnel Service Battalion, to get a new identification card during reintegration training Monday in Bamberg, Germany, The seven-day reintegration program helps 1st Infantry Division soldiers returning from Iraq complete their paperwork and get their affairs back home in order before they go on block leave for one month.

for full exams and X-rays.

Day 6 is delivery of household goods for single soldiers living in the barracks or married soldiers whose families returned to the States during the deployment, Seaman said.

The final day, or "any day," is a make-up day for soldiers who missed part of the process. For those who have finished, it's a day of leisure at Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities with free bowling or computer time at the Community Activity Cen-

ter among other things, Seaman said.

"This is a deliberately slow process to help the soldiers get it done without being stressed," Seaman said. "They must be at their place of duty during the reintegration, but the schedule is half-days so they have time to spend with their families, too."

Apparently the system is working.

"I wouldn't change anything," said Staff

"I wouldn't change anything," said Staff Sgt. Norman Hunter, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, who returned from Iraq on

Saturday. "It takes seven days, but it gets us in the mind frame that we are not in Iraq anymore."

Although he didn't like the idea of the reintegration running over the weekend, Sgt. Eric Gyamfi, also from 1-6 Field Artillery, liked the idea of getting it done before going on leave.

"Then, you know that everything is taken care of and you don't have to worry about it," he said.

nail Rick Emert at:

ertr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

## Army officials worried about lowered recruiting standards

BY TOM BOWMAN The Baltimore Sun

WASHINGTON — Struggling to boost its ranks, the U.S. Army is recruiting a higher number of high school dropouts and recruits who score in the lowest category on military aptitude tests, raising concerns among senior officers and defense analysts that the quality of the force will suffer. Five months into the recruiting

year, the percentage of recruits in the active-duty Army without high school diplomas is more than double the percentage of last year. The number of recruits who scored the lowest on the aptitude test also has more than doubled from last year and is the highest since 2001.

While the Army has fallen short of its recruiting goals so far, senior commanders are less worried about making the numbers than they are about lowering standards, according to an officer who has seen briefings by Army recruiting generals.

Top officers at the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky., were not available for interviews. A spokesman for the command, Douglas Smith, said that despite recruiting challenges, the Army would not exceed a self-imposed ceiling it has set for recruits

who are below average.

The Army's goal by the end of the year is 80,000 recruits, although it missed its February recruiting goal by more than 27 percent. The Army signed up 5,114 in February, 1,936 short of the 7,050 needed.

It was the first time since May 2000 that the service missed a monthly goal, even though the Army is offering signing bonuses of as much as \$20,000 and is sending hundreds of additional recruiters to encourage young men and women to enlist.

David Segal, a military sociologist at the University of Maryland said that historical research shows that those recruits with at least a high school diploma have fewer disciplinary problems and are more likely to complete their tour of

duty. Moreover, the Army has recruited 667 soldiers this year deemed Category 4, those who scored less than 30 points on the military aptitude test. That is 1.8 percent of the recruits so far this year. Last year, the Army accepted 440 soldiers from Category 4, or about 0.6 percent. The percentage of soldiers scoring in this lowest category is the highest since 2001.

# Air Force technical sergeant sentenced in child porn case

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Tech Sgt. Dean Harmer, who said he first looked at child pornography "out of curiosity," was sentenced Tuesday to 11 months of confinement, given a bad-conduct discharge from the Air Force and reduced in rank to airman basic for downloading imgrace of young children in sex-valle waylicit peess.

ages of young children in sexually explicit poses. Harmer, 34, pleaded guilty to one charge of wrongful possession of child pornography during a general court-martial heard by Maj. Adam Oler, the trial judge, at RAF Mildenhall.

A pretrial agreement asked for 370 days of confinement, but the lesser penalty given by Oler was accepted by all parties in the case.

In a stipulation of fact read by the court and agreed to by Harmer, the maintainer with the 352nd Maintenance Squadron admitted he subscribed to six Web sites that provide child pornog-

raphy.

His computer "bookmarks" listed several Web sites, including "Little Angels" and "Pre-Teen Goddesses."

He was charged with viewing the material on his home computer on many occasions from March 1, 2002, to June 14, 2004, the date he was questioned about his habit by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. The photographs included girls under the age of 16 and some under age Ryan Amedure, the lead investigator, said the computer's hard drive contained 22,000 pornographic images, but it was not known how many were of children.

Harmer's use of the for-pay Web sites was uncovered during a cooperative investigation by the FBI, U.S. Postal Service, Internal Revenue Service and other agencies.

In his closing argument, Capt. W. Crosby Parker, the prosecutor, asked for 14 months of confine-

"The accused is an integral part of the child pornography industry," Parker said.

David Court, who, along with Capt. Tiwana Wright, defended Harmer, told the judge nothing would be accomplished by booting his client from the Air Force.

"His service over the last 16½ years must count for something." Court said.

During testimony, Harmer's friends and colleagues called him a loyal friend and a good Air Force member.

"I don't believe that this case should define Dean Harmer," said Chief Master Sgt. Joel Coppolino, who traveled from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., to testify on behalf of the airman he worked with from May 1999 until December 2001.

In an unsworn statement before the court, Harmer apologized to everyone he had hurt by his actions. Since his arrest in June, he said, "I've done a lot of soul-searching."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: Jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

## **Program offers** child care for all deployed troops

ARLINGTON, Va. — For the first time, a new Defense Department initiative gives all mobilized or deployed military parents access to government-subsidized, high-quality child care — including members of the reserve components, who until now have been excluded from DOD's on-base programs. Operation Military Child Care

is funded by the Defense Department, and administered by the National Associa-tion of Child

44 The goal is to reach Care Resource Referral and out to people Agencies NACCRRA, especially if Washington-based netthey're not on a work of more base, such as than child-care re-source and rereservists and the ferral centers National Guard 77 nationwide Katherine Chamberlain

Participants will receive re ferrals to li-censed community child care providers and get

discounts of up to 25 percent.

The exact amount of the subsidy will be based on family income, as well as the average cost of child care in that area [see box].

Operation Military Child Care, which kicked off Thursday, is also available to the families of deployed active-duty members who are wait-listed for child care at their home base. "But the goal is to reach out to

people especially if they're not on a base, such as reservists and the National Guard," said NACCRRA spokeswoman Katherine Chamberlain.

Reserve component members, in particular, often have prob

care during deployments, Chamberlain said in a Monday telephone interview

Reserve family incomes may nose-dive when the spouse left at home requires more child care than usual, and sometimes a working spouse may even be forced to give up her job because child care is so expensive, "especially in big cities," Chamberlain said.

"In New York [City, if a spouse] is making \$30,000 per vear, child care can be up to 50 percent of that salary," Chamber-

lain said. "By setting up quality child care at a dis-counted rate," Operation Military Child Care can "signifi-cantly reduce" such burdens, she said To ensure

the same standards as provid-ers in DOD's on-post Child Development Centers.

program will subsidize only licensed, legally operating community-based child-care programs and providers. Chamberlain said.

Families can request a preferred state-accredited and licensed child-care provider or program, or NACCRRA will provide a list of referrals. Military families who live near installations may also be referred to an on-post child-care program, if there is space available

Operation Military Child Care officials are hoping to attract at least 6,000 participants, Chamberlain said.

mail Lisa Burgess at: irgessl@stripes.osd.mil

#### **Getting help**

NACCRRA spokeswoman

Families and child guardians of reserve component servicemembers who are mobilized or deployed in support of the global war on terror, and geographically dispersed active-duty servicemembers or deployed servicemembers who are unable to access child care on their military installation.

How long will my family be eligible to participate in the program? As long as you, as parent or guardian, are mobilized or deployed.

What do I need to provide to establish eligibility for the program? Copies of orders, birth certificates, and the social security number of your children; the name and contact information for any preferred, licensed child care program or provider; proof of income (pay stub or tax return); and a signed copy of the application. How long does the application process take?

NACCRRA will process the application in one to five business days after receipt

Where can I go for more information or an application?

Go to www.naccrra.org or call the Child Care Aware hot line (800) 424-2246; or the Army One Source (800) 464-8107. For Army

One Source outside the United States, dial the access code to reach a U.S. number, then (800) 464-81077. The number for hearing-impaired callers is (800) 364-9188. In Spanish, (888) 732-9020.

Source: National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies



RUSS RIZZO/Stars and Stripes

Joe Russo, a third-grade teacher at Aviano Elementary School, coordinates an effort by the Aviano military community to collect plastic bottle caps to raise money for a local nonprofit organization that houses cancer

## Aviano community helps raise funds for hospital cancer ward

recucled bottle caps

could help the house.

donations began

flooding in

By Russ Rizzo Stars and Stripes

AVIANO Air Base, Italy — Every few months, Joe Russo backs his gray Ford Mondeo station wagon into a small garage just outside Aviano, Italy, He opens the back door and unloads trash bags filled with plastic bottle caps.

On Monday, the take was seven trash bags each filled with at least 50 pounds of caps mostly from water and soft drink bottles. "Pretty amazing, huh?," Russo said as he stared at

the black heaps The caps are collected by students and teachers at

Aviano Elementary School where Russo teaches third grade - and other members of the Aviano military community. Russo takes the donations to a local nonprofit organization that houses cancer pa-tients and their families, and the house recycles the caps for

The money earned helps buy equipment for the house, called Casa Via di Natale, which has 68 beds includ-

ing 12 beds in an upstairs hospice for terminal patients. Located next to Aviano's cancer hospital, called Centro di Riferimento Oncologico, the house functions much like the Fisher House does next to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

The house began collecting bottle caps three years ago, when a woman from Cordenone came up with the idea, said Carmen Gallini, director of Casa Via di Natale. As word spread around Aviano that recycled bottle caps could help the house, donations began flooding in, Gallini said. Russo caught wind of the program early on and encouraged other to particAfter three years, the house has earned 30,000 euro, or about \$40,000, from donated bottle caps, Gallini said.

Gallini said it was difficult to know how much the Aviano military community has contributed to the overall total, because people throughout the region bring donations to the house's garage. But she said the contribution has been significant.

The U.S. military has helped the house in other ways, Gallini said, including digging the foundation for the house when it moved to a larger location in

Collection hins for bottle cans are sprinkled

throughout Aviano Air Base at places such as the identification card office, the As word spread waiting room at the finance office and, naturally, the enaround Aviano that trance to Aviano Elementary

School. One of Russo's pupils, 9-vear-old Arlyn Lisondra.

brought in 1,000 caps recently, filling one trash bag. Arlyn got to skin one homework assignment in return.

Brendan Adler, 9, said his dad, Eric, a Black Hawk helicopter pilot, keeps a bin

'It's really been a community effort," Russo said. Gallini said the money raised by bottle cap dona-

tions is a small portion of the \$2.4 million Casa Via di Natale must raise each year to operate without the help of government funding. But she is quick to offer one of her favorite phras-

es: "Tutte gocce fanno un fiume fino al mare."

It means, "Every drop creates a river that ends in the ocean

For information about how to help, call Joe Russo at 632-5677 or e-mail him at

ioseph.russo@eu.dodea. edu ail Russ Rizzo at: rizzor@mail.estripes.osd.mil

#### Missing airman's body found

SAN ANGELO, Texas - Authorities have recovered the body of a missing Dyess Air Force Base airman from a stock tank on a West Texas ranch, his stepsister said.

Staff Sgt. Michael Leslie Severance's body was found in 10 to 20 feet of water in a tank 15 miles northeast of San Angelo, Nicole Leighton said Monday. His body had been weighted with cinderblocks. and his death was ruled a homicide

Severance, 24, had been missing since Jan. 15. He lived in San Angelo but was assigned to Dyess in Abilene, about 90 miles to the northeast,

Six divers searched about four hours before finding the badly decomposed body, officials said. The Tom Green County Sheriff's Office took the body to the Medical Examiner's Office in Lubbock for posi-

From The Associated Press

## **Coalition orders probe into Italian's death**

#### Car's speed, possible warnings from U.S. soldiers at checkpoint have been questioned

a duty for the government to

the murky issues.

By TODD PITMAN The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - The U.S.-led coalition in Iraq ordered a follow-up investigation Tuesday into the fatal shooting of an Italian intelligence officer as he accompanied a former hostage to Baghdad's airport last

Also Rulgaria demanded a U.S. investigation after one of its 460 soldiers in Iraq was killed Friday in what appeared to be a friendly-fire incident.

Italian intelligence officer Nicola Calipari was killed Friday when U.S. troops at a checkpoint fired at the car carrying him and freed Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena to the airport after Sgrena's release from a month in captivity

Sgrena, a fierce opponent of the war and a frequent critic of U.S. policy who works for the communist newspaper II Manifesto, was recovering Tuesday in a Rome hospital from a shrappel wound to the shoulder.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi "expressed the satisfaction of the Italian government for this investigation," his office said.

The United States has said soldiers at a Baghdad checkpoint "attempted to warn the driver to stop by hand and arm signals, flashing white lights, and firing warning shots in front of the car." "When the driver didn't stop, the sol-

diers shot into the engine block which stopped the vehicle, killing one and wounding two others," it said.

But Italian Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini told his

parliament Tuesday Rome that the car was not speeding and was not or-dered to stop by U.S. troops at a check-

point. However, he also dismissed allegations that

the shooting on Friday that killed Calipari was an ambush - a claim made by Sgrena. "It was an accident," Fini told lawmakers. "This does not prevent, in fact it makes

it a duty for the government to demand that light be shed on the murky issues, that responsibilities be pinpointed, and, where found, that the culprits be punished."

The White House has described the shooting as a "horrific accident" and promised a full investigation.

On Tuesday, the Multi-National Force-Iraq said a team led by U.S. Brig. Gen. Peter Vangjel will carry out an investigation into the incident

The follow-on investi-44 It was an accident. ... This does gation to the Multi-Nationnot prevent, in fact it makes it al Division — Baghdad commander's inidemand that light be shed on tial. inquiry into the inc dent is expected to take ap-Gianfranco Fini proximately

Italian foreign minister three to four weeks to complete," the statement said, "The command is working closely with the U.S. Embassy and Italian officials have been invited to

participate.' In addition to ordering investigations into Friday's fatal incidents involving Italian and Bulgarian allies in Iraq, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq has asked

for a review of any accidents involving U.S. checkpoints in Iraq going back to fall 2004.

"I have asked my subordinate commander to look at all checkpoint accounts from last six months, to see what we can draw from that," George W. Casey Jr., commanding general of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, told Pentagon reporters Tues-

day.
"Obviously the timing [of the two incidents] gave me cause for discomfort," Casey said when asked for his reaction to the death by suspected friendly fire of a Bulgarian soldier, which happened almost at the same time as the Baghdad airport

checkpoint incident.

checkpoint incident.
"We've had two incidents in a short period of time," Casey said.
Therefore, "it's prudent" for U.S. officials to analyze checkpoint rules of engagement and procedures and modify them if necessary, to "make sure I don't have fur-ther problems in the future." he said.

Bulgaria's defense minister said the death would not lead to a troop withdrawal. The nation must decide this month whether to keep troops in Iraq past July.

Stars and Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess and AF reporter Alessandra Rizzo contributed to this report.

## Gunman shoot Iraqi minister in Baghdad

BY TODD PITMAN The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Gunmen assassi nated the deputy chief of the Interior Ministry's immigration of-Gen. Ghazi Mohammed Issa in Baghdad on Tuesday, in a drive-by shooting that al-Qaida in Iraq purportedly claimed responsibility for in an Internet statement. The claim could not be veri-

Volleys of automatic weap-ons-fire erupted in central Baghdad near a main hotel housing foreign journalists. It was not immediately known what sparked the violence

Also on Tuesday U.S. troops and insurgents clashed in Ramadi. 70 miles west of Baghdad. At least two Iragis were killed and two others wounded, said Dr. Salah al-Ani of Ramadi's main hospital

The clashes lasted for more than an hour. City shops were closed and streets were deserted as U.S. troops took up sniper positions on rooftops. At least one body was in the street, witnesses said U.S. troops launched a clamp-

down in Ramadi and several other Euphrates cities on Feb. 20, imposing curfews and raiding houses in a bid to root out insurgents operating in the area.

In the capital, unidentified gun-men also killed the deputy head of Hay Alfurat Hospital in western Baghdad, officials said. The Interior Ministry official

said gunmen also attacked a convoy of trucks carrying food for the Trade Ministry in Salman Pak, southeast of the capital. Three civilians were killed in the assault and at least one truck was

night killed two men they identified as terrorists who launched an attack in Ad Duia, about 30 miles northwest of the capital. Six people were detained by U.S. forces.

Tuesday's violence came a day after insurgents killed 33 people and wounded dozens in a series of

The terror group Al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Abu Musab al-Zar-qawi, claimed responsibility for much of Monday's bloodshed including violence that killed 15 people in and around Bagouba. 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Amid the violence, negotiations to form Iraq's first democratically elected government have persisted. Iraqi Kurds said they were close to a deal with the Shiite clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance to secure many of their territorial demands and ensure the country's secular character after its Assembly convenes March 16

The dominant Shiite Muslim alliance, however, said although it agreed that Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani would become Iraq's president, it was still talking about other conditions set by the Kurds to gain their support in the

275-member legislative body. The Shiite alliance controls 140 seats and need the 75 seats won by the Kurds in the Jan. 30 elections to muster the necessary two-thirds majority to elect a president and later seat their choice for prime minister, Ibrahim

An alliance official said interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, whose party won 40 seats, refused an offer for a Cabinet post. Allawi's office could not be

reached for comment.



To celebrate International Women's Day, Iraqi women attend a rally Tuesday in Baghdad. They called for women's liberation, a secular Iraq without Islamic government and the end of the U.S. occupation.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Monday, at least 1,507 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,145 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians. The AP count is eight higher than the Defense

Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador,

Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each. Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,369 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,036

deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported. The latest identifications reported by the mili-

■ No identifications reported.

## **General: U.S. troop level in Iraq to stay steady**

"We're actually fur-

In fact, he said,

"last week [marked]

the lowest level [of at-

along than I

Casey

BY LISA BURGESS Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - U.S. troop levels in Iraq will remain steady at about 135,000 troops for "the next several months," according to the top U.S. military leader in

Once the last of the units held over for Iraqi elections returns home at the end of March "I don't necessarily anticipate [troop levels] changing much for the next several months," Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commanding general of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, told Pentagon

reporters Tuesday.
"We're in a good position following the [January] elections, but we have a lot of work ahead to get to our final objective in



tacks] since April." However, Casev said he was "not ready to say" that the elections marked a "tipping point" that will spell a rapid end to the in-

Despite progress in capturing many bombmakers and other foes of coalition forces and the new Iraqi government, "We are [still] dealing with an insurgency that has sufficient weapons, ammunition and neonle to maintain attacks (at the level of) 50 or 60 per day in the Sunni area," Casey said. "We've seen that,

Even though attacks against U.S. forces have dropped, attacks continue against Iraqis, in particular the fledgling Iraqi security forces, which are losing members to suicide bombers and other insurgent weapons almost daily.

The insurgents are "clearly going after Iraqi security forces more, that's kind of a steady thing," Casey said.

The election gave the Iraqi people a much-needed psychological boost, Casey said, leaving Iraqi civilians less vulnerable to the demoralizing effect of daily blood-

"For every one attack, two and a half are ineffective," Casey said, "So you get a lot of noise. Before the election, that noise really affected the people, because they had a per-ception of insecurity," he said. "After the

election, [it's] not having the same effect. But stabilizing Iraq is an effort that could take many more years, Casey said, though he did not specifically say that U.S. troops would be required for the duration.

"Defeating insurgency takes time, Casey said. "The average counterinsurgency in the 20th century took nine years. E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

"And there is a huge need for

Servicemembers make the ini-

tial requests for tickets, which are forwarded to the Fisher

House Foundation by the social

work staff or family assistance

centers at the medical centers.

Requests also can come from ser-

Information is available on the Internet

## Program extends free-flight service to troops' families

By SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

A partnership of organizations that doles out free airline tickets to servicemembers and families broadened who is eligible to participate and where they may fly.

Last month, the nonprofit Fisher House Foundation which has partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs, several airline companies and "Operation Hero Miles." started flying families to VA medical treatment fa

cilities to be at the bedside of recuperating wounds sustained in Iraq, Afghanistan and the surrounding areas, Fisher House spokesman Jim Weiskopf said.

About 2,300 airline tickets have been distributed to troops and families, saving recipients about \$2.3 million, Weiskopf said. "Every time we give away tickets, we're saving the families about \$1,000 they don't have to pay in airfare

U.S. Rep. C.A. "Dutch" Rup-

persberger, D-Md., started "Operation Hero Miles, ber 2003 as a way for troops to collect free tickets when traveling on the two-week Rest and Recuperation leave from the Middle East.

Businesses and people donate frequent flyer miles to the program so troops don't have to pay the airfares to get home.

The program linked with Fisher House Foundation, which began distributing donated miles to families so they could visit troops at U.S. military medical treatment facilities.

Now it has grown so military men and women can use the do nated tickets to fly home to be with their families, or have family fly to wherever they are recuper

With R&R flights fully funded by the military, miles donated to 'Operation Hero Miles" pay primarily for families' trips to hospi-

at: www.fisherhouse.org or www.heromiles.org. tals said Heather Moeder Molino. Ruppersberger's spokeswom-F-mail Sandra Jontz at:

iontzs@mail.estrines.osd.mil

vice casualty offices.

that," she said



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#### IN THE WORLD

#### Refusing to speak

AMMAN, Jordan — Fifteen alleged militants refused to speak Monday when a military court asked them to plead to numerous terror charges, including plotting to attack the U.S. and Israeli embassies in Amman.

The court interpreted their silence as a plea of not guilty and adjourned the trial to March 14.

An additional person accused is being tried in absentia on the same charges.

The charge sheet identified the chief defendant as Abed al-Tahawi, 50, and said he pursued the ideology of "takfiri" — a policy of killing anybody considered to be an infidel. The charge sheet said al-Tahawi recruited his accomplices while preaching in mosques in Irbid, 50 miles north of the capital.

The defendants planned to attack the U.S. and Israeli embassies in Amman, and a hotel favored by Israeli tourists in Irbid, the charge sheet said.

## **Kosovo PM resigns after indictment**

#### Haradinaj accused of war crimes

BY FISNIK ABRASHI
The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro — Kosovo's prime minister resigned Tuesday and said he would surrender to the U.N. court which has indicted him for alleged war crimes, but insisted he

Ramush Haradinaj said he would leave Wednesday for The Hague, Netherlands, where the tribunal is based.

"Today I have been called upon to make a sacrifice, something I never believed would happen," he said in a statement. "This means also cooperation with international justice, however unjust it

Proclaiming his innocence, Haradinaj said his actions as an ethnic Albanian rebel commander during the 1989-99 war against Serb forces were consistent with international law.

"I have behaved like an honorable man," he said.

Kosovo still seethes with ethnic tensions nearly six years after the end of the 1998-99 war between Serbs and ethnic Albanians, and the decision to charge Haradinaj raised concerns of renewed violence. U.N. police and NATO troops were put on alert, but no incidents were reported by late Tuesday.

International officials appeared relieved that Haradinaj a seasoned battlefield commander with a fiery temper and a loyal following — had decided to coop-

Expressing his thanks to Haradinaj for resigning and going to The Hague voluntarily, Philip Goldberg, the U.S. representative to Kosovo, said full cooperation



Kosovo's Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj holds his U.N. war crimes indictment and resignation speech before stepping down from his position Tuesday in Pristina.

with the war crimes court is "test of a society's commitment to the rule of law."

Gen. Yves de Kermabon, the head of NATO-led peacekeepers in Kosovo, warned ethnic Alba-

nians against succumbing to "the temptation of anger," saying his forces — bolstered by an additional 1,000 troops flown in over the past few days — would make sure order prevailed.

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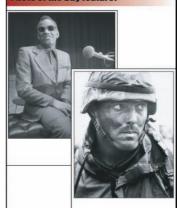
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### Corned Beef and Cabbage for St. Patrick's Day the Healthy Way

If, in years past, you've missed a good corned beef and cabbage meal on St. Patrick's Day because you're away from home and away from Mom's cooking advice, then heed this advice. Don't do that again, this year! This is such an easy meal to prepare, there's no way you can go wrong. And, if you were thinking corned beef had way too much fat to be considered a healthy choice, I've got good news for you on that front as well.

Choose a "flat-cut" corned beef. Look for those exact words on the front of the package. It's the leaner half of the whole brisket. Same great corned beef flavor, but it weighs in low enough in fat to qualify as "lean" according to the government's labeling standards. Lean means 10 grams or less total fat; 4.5 grams or less staturated fat; and less than 95 milligrams cholesterol per serving. Check the nutrition label yourself, and know that you can enjoy traditional Irish fare the healthy way.

Most corned beef briskets are in the three to four pound range, so you don't even have to fret over how much to buy. A conservative serving size is about four ounces per person, so count on a four-pound brisket serving eight to ten people.

Don't worry if that's more people than you can feed at one meal, comed beef keeps well. Use leftovers to make cold sandwiches accompanied by some good German mustand, heat this slices in the microwave for a repeat meal, or better yet make Reuben sandwiches (thinly sliced corned beef, well drained sauerkraut, a slice of Swiss cheese and a table spon or so of Russian dressing, stuffee between vosifies of lightly buttered rye bread, and grilled in a skilled or griddle, arilled chees style.)

If you've never eaten comed beet before, not like the time to try it. Don't be surprised by its rops yed color, that's the result of the salt/spice/brine-cure process it undergoes to become corned beef. And no, com is not used in the curing process. The name is used to brine large cuts of beef brisket or beef round. Follow the cooking instructions on the package using the seasoning packet, or use this recipe from The Joy of Cooking to lower the sodium content just a bit. Check it out when you read the nutrition label - 1100 mg sodium per serving is high. If you prepare it according to package directions using the brine it's packed in, be sure to make low sodium choices in

other foods consumed that day. Either way you're sure to have a wonderful meal.

Corned Beef and Cabbage
1 corned beef brisket (about 4 pounds)
20 black peppercorns
2 bay leaves

I head green cabbage, cored and cut into wedges

Remove corned beef from package and wash under running water to remove brine. Place the brine. Place the brine in la tape pot and add water to cover. Drop in the peppercorns and bay leaves. Set over high heat and bring liquid to the boil, then reduce heat to a simmer. Simmer, covered, for about 3 hours, or until fork can easily penetrate the center. Add cabbage to the pot during the last 15 to 20 minutes of cooking.

Remove the meat from the pot and let stand for 15 minutes. Drain the cabbage and keep warm. Cut the corned beef, against the grain, into thin slices and remove to serving plate or platter.

Serve with boiled potatoes - the new-crop red potatoes, if we have them. Cook and serve them with the peeling on. Offer mustard or horseradish as a condiment for the meat.

Club of Madrid Secretary-**General Kim** Campbell and Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a former president of Brazil, talk Tuesday following the opening of the International Summit on Democracy. Terrorism and Security, held in Madrid



## **Madrid hosts terror summit**

#### World leaders focus on international communication

....

MADRID, Spain — A former Brazilian president opend a global summit on terrorism Tuesday, telling delegates that nations must communicate with one another as effectively as they do with their own people if the world is to defeat the terrorist menace.

Former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso appealed to experts and government leaders attending a four-day conference to recognize that "terrorism is a phenomenon that doesn't respect national boundaries."

"It is clear that we need to establish a much larger level of international collaboration in order to anticipate terrorism," he said.

Cardoso's pointed remarks underlined one of the

more intractable issues in combatting terrorism: many nations are reluctant to share intelligence data that could lead to the capture of terrorists with anyone but their closest allies, partly out of fear of jeopardizing the sources of the data.

Finding a way to share information — while at the same time buttressing democratic principles — will be a common theme for panelists from about 50 countries who began meeting in closed session Tuesday. The experts will polish policy recommendations they've been working on for about six months and present them Priday.

"We don't want to fall into (the trap) ... that the end justifies the means," Cardoso said, arguing that foregoing civil rights and liberties to end terrorism would be destructive.

## International Women's Day marked in Europe

The Associated Pre

STRASBOURG, France — European leaders marked International Women's Day Tuesday by calling for equal working rights for women and agreeing to set up a gender institute that will combat sex discrimination.

The institute, which should open by 2007 and have an annual budget of about of gender equality and ensure that it's part of all EU policies, said European Commission chairman Jose Manuel Barroso.

"Women must have easy access to work and be properly paid," Barroso said in his remarks at the European Pariament in Strasbourg. "It's a question of mind-sets. Mentalities must evolve, women's issues must be enhanced. It is crucial to increase the employment rate of women."

"Every day, thousands of women are victims of discrimination on grounds of gender," added European Parliament President Josep Borrell. "The still suffer from psychological, physical and economic violance."

A recent EU report found that, while job discrimination and education gaps were narrowing, men earn on average about 15 percent more than women in the 25-nation bloc.

In Paris, French President Jacques Chirac announced that the government will present a draft law within days on workplace equality between men and

"No labor accord will be reached unless negotiations have also touched on the means to achieve wage equality between women and men, in no more than five years," Chirac

If the future law is not respected, companies could face sanctions, officials close to the president said.

According to figures from France's National Institute of Statistic and Economic Studies, women earn 22 percent less than men for the same work.

Across Europe, International Women's Day was marked by events underlining the fight against discrimination. In Rome, an exhibition devot-

In Rome, an exhibition devoted to women's issues called "Ripping the Veils," featured art by Arab women living in the West.

The Rome-based World Food Agency launched the Catherine Bertini award — in honor of its former executive director which will go to the agency's office that does most to put women in control of food security.

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## Thousands supporting Syria stage Beirut rally

BY TANALEE SMITH

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — About half a million pro-Syrian protesters crowded a central Beirut square Tuesday, chanting anti-American slogans and wildly waving Lebanon's flag in answer to a nationwide call by the militant Shite Muslim Hezbollah group to demonstrate against U.S.-led intervention and counter weeks of massive anti-Syrian rallies.

Loudspeakers blared catchy but forceful songs of resistance and nationalist speeches. The masses intermittently burst into singing the national anthem, hoisting Lebanon's red and white cedar-tree flag.

Two huge vertical banners at the front of the square read, in English: "Thank you Syria" and "No to foreign interference," a reference to American, French and United Nations pressure to get Syrian troops out of the country.

Syria, faced with incessant international pressure and raging Lebanese opposition, announced Monday it would pull its troops to Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley by March 31, and then later to the Syrian Dorsident Bashar Assad and Lebanese President Bashar Assad and Lebanese years and the Syrian intelligence would also leave, a key deemand of the Lebanese opposition.

There were scattered movements of Syrian troops late Monday and Tuesday on the roads in the central mountains.

A Syrian official in Damascus who did not want to be named said Tuesday that Syrian intelligence agents in Lebanon would be pulled back along with the regular army. Syrian intelligence agents have been the source of resentment for many and their departure is a demand of the Leb-

anese opposition and the United States.

In a show of force to counter the anti-Syr-



Hundreds of thousands pro-Syrian protesters gather in a central square in Beirut, Lebanon, on Tuesday, chanting anti-American slogans and wildly waving Lebanon's flag in answer to a nationwide call by the militant Shiite Muslim Hezbollah group, in an effort to counter weeks of massive anti-Syrian raillies.

ian protests, Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah declared to the rousing, cheering crowd: "I ask our partners in the country or those looking at us from abroad, 'Are all those hundreds of thousands of people puppets?' Is all this crowd agents for the Syrians and intelligence agencies?' " There were no independent estimates of the crowds, but at least 500,000 people crowded the square and nearby streets.

At least one opposition leader said the pro-Syrian government pressured people to turn out and some reports said Syria had bused in people from across the border.

## U.S. expert testifies about al-Qaida interrogations

By DAVID RISING
The Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany — A U.S. investigator Tuesday testified in the retrial of a Moroccan accused of aiding the Sept. 11 suicide hijackers that Osama bin Laden personally approved the plot against the United States two years before the attacks. The testimony by Dietrich general, was based on the Sept. 11 Commission's report to the U.S. Congress, which he worked on. The report said the three Ham-

burg-based suicide pilots were recruited by bin Laden and Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, an al-Qaida leader in U.S. custody and alleged mastermind of the 2001 attacks

on New York and Washington.
The Hamburg state court

called Snell as a witness in the case of Mounir el Motassadeq to find out more about the interrogations of Mohammed and Ramzi Binalshibh, the Hamburg cell's suspected contact with al-Qaida.

The court has heard summaries of the questioning of Binalshibh and Mohammed, but has repeatedly asked the United States for more details.

Judge Ernst-Rainer Schudt

asked Snell if he knew whether torture was used in the interrogations, which would make the evidence inadmissible at the Hamburg trial. Snell said he didn't

Mounir el Motassadeq, 30, is being retried on more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization on charges he provided logistical support for suicide bilots Mohamed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah. He was convicted in 2003 on those charges and sentenced to

the maximum 15 years.

But an appeals court threw out
the conviction last year, ruling
he was unfairly denied testimony by key al-Qaida suspects in
U.S. custody, including Khalid
Shaikh Mohammed and Bi-

#### Prince Rainier hospitalized

MONACO — For the second time in less than six months, Prince Rainier III of Monaco has been hospitalized with a chest infection.

Rainier, 81, was admitted Monday to the same clinic where he was treated for a chest infection in October, his palace said Tuesday.

His condition had improved Tuesday but he was expected to remain hospitalized for a few more days.

#### Fire spotlights prison woes

HIGUEY, Dominican Republic — A prison fire that killed 134 immates, one of the deadliest in Latin American prisons, has cast a harsh spotlight on conditions in this country's cells.

The Dominican Republic has the most overcrowded jails in the Western Hemisphere, according to U.N. figures, and the fire early Monday in the eastern city of Higuey happened at one of its worst.

The cellblock where the blaze broke out was said to be so packed, immates were sleeping on top of toilets. To make matters worse, the immates had guns and knives and easy access to drugs, another notorious feature of prisons here.

#### Iran leader to visit Bosnians

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami was due in the Bosnian capital on Tuesday for a three-day official visit where he was to meet the country's top officials and strengthen ties between the two coun-

nalshibh

Khatami will, in addition to meeting the Bosnian three-member presidency, the prime minister and other politicians, meet with local Muslim leaders and with the Inter-religious council, where Bosnia's other main religions — Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish — are represented.

From The Associated Press

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#### IN THE STATES

#### **Bullet analysis off**

WASHINGTON — An FBI crime lab technique used for decades to match bullets to crimes — and relied on by prosecutors in hundreds of criminal trials — is based on "erroneous scientific foundations," a New Jersey appeals court has ruled.

In a decision Monday overturning a 1997 murder conviction, the court said Michael S. Behn deserves a new trial because expert testimony based on the FBI technique was central to his convic-

The ruling is believed to be the first to overturn a conviction based on a challenge to the FBI analysis of the lead content of bullets since the National Academy of Sciences last year raised new questions about the technique.

#### Disease unit opens

OMAHA, Neb. — The nation's largest medical unit for victims of highly lethal infectious diseases such as smallpox, anthrax and the plague opened in Nebraska

on Monday.

The Nebraska Medical Center's 10-bed containment wing has a separate ventilation system alarms to indicate escaping air, a sterilizer for items leaving the wing and a shower for its volunteer staff to make sure contagious diseases are kept inside.

There are only two other high-level bicoorntainment facilities in the country—a two-bed suite run by the Army's infectious diseases institute at Fort Detrick, Md., and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's two-bed unit at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

#### Terror suspects' guns

WASHINGTON — More than 40 terror suspects on federal watch lists were allowed to buy firearms in the United States last year because background checks found no reason to stop them, says a government report released Tuesday.

The GAO recommended that the attorney general clarify procedures to ensure that information from gun purchase background checks is shared with counterer-rorism officials and that the FBI should either monitor such checks more frequently or oversee all checks related to terror

The report showed that from Feb. 3 through June 20, 2004, 35 known or suspected terrorists purchased guns in the United States. From July 1 to Oct. 31 last year, 12 more suspected or known terrorists were allowed to buy firearms.

#### Death row review

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is asking Texas to conduct new hearings for 51 Mexicans on death row who say they were denied legal help from their consulates in violation of international law.

The International Court of Justice in The Hague last year ruled that the convictions violated the 1963 Vienna Convention by not providing the Mexicans with consular access. In 1969, the Senate ratified the treaty, which requires such access for Americans detained abroad and foreigners arrested in the United States.

## **Clinton to have heart-related surgery**

### Office says doctors will remove fluid and scar tissue from his left chest

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Clinton will undergo a medical procedure this week to remove an unusual buildup of fluid and scar tissue from his chest, six months after he underwent quadruple bypass surgery, his office said Tuesday. "I feel fine," Clinton said in Washinaton.

The low-risk procedure will take place Thursday at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center.

tal/Columbia University Medical Center.
Clinton will remain hospitalized for three to
10 days and is expected to make a "full func-

tional recovery," doctors said.
Clinton, who planned to play a golf tournament in Florida on Wednesday with former President George H.W. Bush for tsunami relief, said doctors discovered the condition during a recent X-ray. He called the surgery a

"routine sort of deal."
"I feel fine," Clinton told reporters follow-

ing a visit to the Oval Office with the former president. "And we're going to go play golf to-morrow."

The procedure, known as a decortication, will remove scar tissue that has developed as a result of fluid buildup and inflammation, causing compression and collapse of the lower lobe of the left lung, doctors said. The surgery will be done either through a small cision or with a video-assisted thoracoscope inserted between ribs.

Clinton's problem is a relatively rare complication of his surgery, where inflammation of the lining of the heart develops and fluid builds around it or in the lungs, said Dr. John LaRosa, president of the State University of New York Health Science Center in Brooklyn. It doesn't signal anything ominous about the former president's outlook, he said.

"It is unusual" for it to develop so long after the operation, said Dr. Valentin Furster, a cardiologist at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York and a former American Heart Ass ciation president.

Schwartz said Clinton passed a full physical before leaving on a trip to Asia last month to survey tsunami damage. He also scored in the 95th percentile for his age in a stress test, Schwartz said.

Clinton, 58, had been quite active since his Sept. 6 heart surgery in New York, presiding over the opening of his presidential library in Little Rock, Ark., and, more recently, joining the first President Bush for a public relations campaign to help raise private funds for the victims of the Asian Isunami

Former President Bush said he had trouble keeping up with Clinton in Asia.

"You should have seen him going, town to town, country to country, Energizer Bunny here. He killed me." Bush said.

here. He killed me," Bush said.
Six months ago, Clinton had undergone quadruple coronary artery bypass surgery after suffering chest pains and shortness of breath.
As president, Clinton was an avid jogger who had a love of fast food.

PROFILE

#### Experienced public servant

Ambassador to the United Nations nominee John R. Bolton, 56, has held numerous federal public servant positions since 1981

Education – Bachelor's degree, Yale University, 1970; law degree, Yale Law School, 1974

Federal service – Undersecretary of state 2001-present; assistant secretary, Department of State, 1989-93; assistant attorney general, Department of Justice, 1985-89; assistant administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, 1982. 39; general counsel, USAID, 1981-82



### Bolton's confirmation hearings for U.N. job expected to be rough

BY LIZ SIDOTI The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's pick of a vocal U.N. critic to be the next U.S. ambassador to the world body was meant to send a message that change is needed there, the White House said Tues-

Now undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, John R. Bolton was announced Monday as Bush's choice for the post. He is likely to face a tough Senate confirmation hearing before Democrats who argue that he has disdained the world body and Republicans who are wary of him.

But White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bolton is the right man for the job at a time when the Bush administration is looking for reforms at the

"The president believes that there is more that needs to be done to make sure that it is an organization that is effective and an organization that is toffilling its mandate," he said. "There are some areas where it can do much better." Atop that list, McClellan said, is making sure "that when resolutions are passed, that the Security Council means what it says."

"John Bolton is someone who is dedicated to positive reforms at the United Nations," McClellan said. "He is a tough-minded diplomat, someone who is committed to achieving results."

Confirmation hearings are ex-

pected next month.

The appointment comes at a

The appointment comes at a crucial time: U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan is going forward with plans to reform the world body, and U.S. opinion of the United Nations, particularly in Congress, is at a low.

In 2001, 43 Democratic senators opposed Bolton's nomination for his current post. He was con-

firmed anyway.

During his tenure, Bolton has rankled lawmakers with his tough foreign policy talk. However, on Monday, he promised to work closely with Congress to advance Bush's policies. "Working closely with others is essential to ensure a safer world," he added.

If confirmed, Bolton, 56, would succeed former Sen. John Dan-

# Bush: Democracy is key to defeating world terrorism

BY TERENCE HUNT The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush hailed fresh signs of democracy in the Middle East on Tuesday, saying authoritarian rule is "the last gasp of a discredited past" and demanding that Syria withdraw from Leba-

"Freedom will prevail in Lebanon," Bush declared, rejecting the message from a demonstration in Beirut by nearly 500,000 pro-Syrian protesters who chanted anti-American slogans. Bush instead took sides with anti-Syrian demonstrators of recent days who have demanded that Damascus remove its 14,000 troops from Lebanon.

"All the world is witnessing your great movement of conscience," Bush told the people of Lebanon. "The American people are on your side. Millions across the Earth are on your side."

Bush spoke at the National Defense University, a center for professional military education.

The speech was described as an update on the war on terrorism, a struggle that he linked with repressive conditions in the Middle East that he said give rise to extremism.

"The advance of hope in the Middle East requires new thinking in the region," the president said. "By now it should be clear that authoritarian rule is not the wave of the future. It is the last gasp of a discredited past."

Bush said the entire world has "an urgent interest in the progress and hope and freedom in the broader Middle East."

"Our duty is now clear," he said. "For the sake of our longterm security, all free nations



President Bush tells an audience at the National Defense University in Washington on Tuesday that spreading democracy in the Middle East was essential to winning the war on terrorism.

must stand with the forces of democracy and justice that have begun to transform the Middle Fact"

Bush's speech on terrorism marked a return to the trademark theme of his re-election campaign. After the election, Campaign. After the election, Bush turned his focus to an up-hill battle to radically redesign the Social Security program by offering personal investment accounts, a step that would be accounts, and the social Security program by offering personal investment accounts, as the part of the second part of the second

While more than half of Americans oppose his Social Security overhaul, a solid majority approve of his handling of the terrorism fight.

"In this war on terror America is not alone," Bush said.

## Wife: Mauled man tried to reason with chimps

The Associated Pres

SAN FRANCISCO — A man who was severely mauled by two chimpanzees at an animal sanctuary last week was quickly overwhelmed when the apes attacked, his wife said Monday.

"One was at his head, one was at his foot. But all that time ... he was trying to reason with them," a sobbing LaDonna Davis told ABC's "Good Morning America." "I couldn't do anything."

Davis 64 and her husband St. James

Davis, were visiting Animal Haven Ranch near Bakersfield on Thursday when two male chimps escaped their enclosure and attacked the couple.

"When we made eye contact, the charge was on," LaDonna Davis said. "There was no stopping anything, and the big chimp came around from behind me and pushed me into my husband. The male came around from behind and chomped off my thumb. ... My husband must have realized we were in deep trouble because he

nushed me backward. At that time, they

both went for his

St. James Davis, 62, lost all the fingers from both hands, an eye, part of his nose, cheek, lips and part of his brutches in the ferocious attack, his wife said over the weekend on NBC's "Today Show." She also said one of his feet was mutilated. A Kern County Sheriff's commander also said his genitals were mauled.

St. James Davis was being treated at Loma Linda University Medical Center, where doctors said his condition was "minute by minute," his wife said Monday. "Right now what they are trying to do is keep his breathing constant," she said. "... I told him that he can't leave me. He has to

told min that are can't leave me. Fre has to be strong."

The Davises were visiting the sanctuary to celebrate the birthday of Moe, a chimpanzee who was taken from their home after

biting off part of a woman's finger in 1999. Authorities were continuing to investigate how the two chimps got loose. Both were shot and killed during the attack. Test results released Monday showed the two chimps didn't have rables.

## Stewart aims to fashion a more emotional message for her fans

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A beaming Martha Stewart told several hundred employees that the lessons she learned from a cross-section of people she met during five months in federal prison will be reflected in her company.

Stewart said on her first day back at work Monday that Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. has focused too much in the past on technical aspects of enter-taining and cooking, and not enough on why people need to take care of each other.

"We've going to deepen our bond with the millions who read our publications and watch our television programs," Stewart said. "We've going to engage and inspire new readers and new viewers for whom these topics may have seemed alien, unfamiliar or even — believe it or not — superficial."

As if to confirm her new down-to-earth image, Stewart pulled out a much-photographed poncho she wore when released from prison, saying it did not come from a fancy store, but was crocheted by a fellow immate. Whether or not Stewart has emerged from prison a changed woman may not matter as far as her company goes, observes said. They said the new strategy is brilliant for turning around Stewart's multimedia empire, which has struggled with a string of losses since June 2002.

"Her prison experience can be used as a new and powerful brand asset," said John Barker, president of DZP Marketing Communications, based in New York. "What prison has done is to make her more fallible. There is this opportunity to make Martha more



Employees of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. applaud as Martha Stewart addresses them during a meeting in New York on Monday.

approachable, more empathetic."

Barker said Martha Stewart Living previously focused on functional benefits in its editorial content, but has become more aware of the

"emotional power of the brand."

Stewart's prison experience
has made her "start to understand the real struggles that people have in their lives," he said.



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### Man charged after helping dying friend take own life

BY CARA RUBINSKY
The Associated Press

CORNWALL, Conn. — Any of the dozen friends caring for John T. Welles could have been there the morning that the 66-year-old decided to take his life.

Welles, a fiercely independent former Marine and inventor, had not seen a doctor in decades and did not know he had prostate cancer until three weeks before kill-

ing himself on June 11, 2004.

Those caring for him said he made no secret of his plans.

Now, 74-year-old Huntington Williams is charged with manslaughter for helping fulfill his dying friend's wish. The case has galvanized resi-

dents in Connecticut's bucolic northwest corner, even though legalizing physician-assisted suicide doesn't seem on the horizon. "Hunt just happened to be

there at the time. I don't think anybody would have wanted to trade places with him," said Cornwall official Gordon Ridgway.

"They can go beyond what happened in five minutes to realize Mr. Welles was critically ill, that it was his wish to die on his own terms and not become a vegetable, and that Hunt was there to help him."

If convicted, Williams faces up to 10 years in prison. He was next expected in court on Friday.

Though there are no statistics

on assisted suicide, the issue has sparked a legal debate nationally. In the past five years, people in Michigan, Maryland, South Carolina, Wisconsin and Rhode Island have been charged with helping friends or relatives kill themselves.

In Oregon, the only state where doctor-assisted suicide is legal, 171 terminally ill people have died after taking lethal doses of medication. The Bush administration has challenged the law, which has so far been upheld by federal courts.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently agreed to hear the case.

The morning Welles died, Williams relieved a friend who had spent the night with the dying man.

"John needs to do this. Are you able to do this with him?" the friend asked Williams, according to an affidavit.

Williams, a volunteer emergency medical technician and retired high school teacher, had watched his wife, Rebecca, die of ovarian cancer a decade ago. He said that he could "bonor John's wishes."

He cleaned Welles' .38-caliber revolver and carried it outside.

Smoking a pipe and leaning on a walker, Welles headed to the front yard.

The men shook hands and Williams walked down the driveway. Before Williams could say "God bless." he heard a gunshot.

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#### CCB has a history

New badge? All for it!

This whole idea was copied from the Germans in World War II. They awarded it to infantrymen and all combat/combat support military occupational specialties that we

have today: artillery, engineers and the like. The new name is even a direct translation of the German award, called then the Nah kampfabzeichen, which translates directly

to "Close Combat Badge." Respect to all the truck drivers who seem to get a lot of special attention during convoy duty by insurgents, but sorry, you shouldn't get it. Like my dad said in the Ko-"Our cooks carry rifles, but they rean War.

don't get CIBs." Aviators? We should get (as in World War II) a "combat aviator designator," as well. Back then, it was a piece of aviation blue wool sewn on the dress tunic, and your wings were pinned over it. It showed every one that you were flying combat missions The Air Medal is normally the aviators' "I was there" medal. I won the Air Medal with "V" device for flying direct combat mis sions. However, I watched an awards cere mony and saw an overweight specialist who also got an Air Medal for riding in the back seat of an OH-58 to go pick up a gearbox in Saudi Arabia. Fair? No.

This is my point. Combat arms soldiers, and otherwise nonrecognized troopers (cavalry scouts, etc.), and, on a case-by-case basis civil affairs guys, if they are attached to a fighting element that does not get the Combat Infantryman Badge should get the new hadge 'Nuff said!

Chief Warrant Officer Jim Calhoun Schweinfurt, Germany

#### Craving 'chest candy' crummy

I'm an infantry soldier and I've read a bunch of letters in the past few weeks about the new Close Combat Badge.

#### Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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It proves that if you whine about something long enough, someone up top will bend to your wishes. Next thing you know we'll have a combat admin badge, a combat cook badge, a combat commo badge, a combat legal badge, a combat military police hadge, a combat air traffic controller hadge. a combat mortuary affairs badge and a combat military intelligence badge.

People, this is pathetic. I don't know one person in my military occupational specialty who joined the Army to get badges. If all you people want is chest candy, then get out and join the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America.

How many of you people have performed medical tasks in combat? I have Do I deserve the Combat Medical Badge? Absolutely not. But according to logic coming from all the people who want a new badge, I de serve it. I probably just started something new, now everyone will want CMBs, too.

To the people who think a new badge is an incentive for retention: Come on. I don't

want a soldier to re-enlist because he got a new cool-guy badge. I want a soldier to feels he can benefit the Army. If you want a paper soldier, fine. Just please keep them

out of the infantry; we don't need them. Bottom line is, if you want a Combat Infan tryman Badge, join the infantry or Special Forces, If you want a CMB, join the medical corps; if you want the CCB, join those MOSs. Just quit complaining; you're going to make the combat badges we have worth less and there are a lot more important things to express opinions about while in

Staff Sgt. Ryan Brophy Bagram, Afghanistan

#### You can have his badge

In response to those who have written about the Close Combat Badge, I ask: Why did you deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan? Did you just deploy to earn a badge to sew on your uniform?

My father ran recon with Military Assistance Command Vietnam, which was recently declassified. For anyone who knows any-thing about MACV, I do not have to explain who they are and what they did in Vietnam or the surrounding area.

I have never heard my father complain about not receiving a badge or an award from his tour in Vietnam. All I heard my father say was that it was a blessing to have survived Vietnam, reunite with his wife, raise three children, and to have served his country honorably.

Is a badge that important for you to have?

If a Close Combat Badge is that important to you, you can come to Fort Hood, Texas, and I will gladly give you mine. I'll even pay for the sewing. I am more thankful to have extended a hand of selfless service to the people of Iraq and to be alive, than to complain about who gets what award for whatever they did or did not do in a combat zone. Sgt. Nicholas J. Varney

Camp New York, Kuwait

### Give Lebanon back to the Lebanese

hen 34-year-old Bashar Assad became president of Syria in 2000 after the death of longtime dictator Hafez Assad, two schools of thought quickly emerged: The son was either the new Mafia don of Syria, or, as one story put it, he was "a modern young man who would like to bring his country into the Internet era and fight corrup-

From the evidence to date, the callow Assad chose to adopt his father's brass-knuckled style to become the Michael Corleone of Syria.

But if he still harbors even the smallest impulse of reform, now is his chance to prove it.

Last month's assassination of former Leb anese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a foe of

Syria, has aroused a tide of revulsion among

the people of Lebanon against Syria and its occupation of their country not Syria was responsible. Assad's tepid offer to move his 14,000 troops in Lebanon closer to the Syrian border and eventually out of the country is too little, too late.

There is no justification for this occupa tion of a neighboring country that has a right to be free of the oppressive foreign presence. As if to underline how unacceptable Syria's role in Lebanon has become, both France and the United States — how's that for an unlikely alliance? - have joined hands to urge "the immediate withdrawal of all Syrian military and intelligence forces from Lebanon Given the fragile political balance inside

Lebanon — Hezbollah, a sworn enemy of Israel, is the largest party in Parliament - a precipitous Syrian pullout is not in anyone's interest. But a promise to leave by a time certain in the near future would help to restore political balance in the region. Change will not be easy. At the moment

Lebanon does not have the resources to extend its authority over its entire territory. If the Syrian forces were to leave, Western countries - most prominently. France

should be prepared to provide security assistance to ensure stability until the Lebanese can do the job Assad must surely be aware that a new

current is running through the Middle East. It's not only the Lebanese marching in the streets of Beirut by the thousands who reject terrorists and their sponsors.

It's not too late for Assad himself to change. Western countries can bring pressure to bear if he doesn't, or - should he reform — they can extend the sort of trade-and-aid benefits that typically are denied to dictators. Perhaps Assad would recognize that as an offer he can't refuse.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

#### Doonesbury







#### OPINION

## Ten Commandments divisiveness on display

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

hen public officials dedie to post the Ten Commandments in often stress the religious significance to a Christian nation. But when they defend these monuments in court, they push religion into the background and make ments about the secular importance of the commandments in American history.

Last week was no different as the U.S. Supreme Court considered the constitutionality of a 6-foot-tall granite monument on the State Capitol grounds in Austin, Texas, and Ten Commandments plaques in two county courthouses in Kentucky.

Mathew D. Staver, defending plaques, stressed that there were 'really, very few' religious words in the Ten Commandments. An incredulous Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg fired back, "Have you read the first four commandments when you say that?"

The Supreme Court's task is not to decide whether Ten Commandments displays in general violate the First Amendment, but, rather, where to draw the line between displays that are constitutional and those that are not.

Not all displays abridge the First Amendment's bar to "an establishment of religion." Certainly, the Supreme Court itself need not sandblast the mural of Moses and the Ten Commandments from the courtroom's east wall. The mural is a piece of art depicting the great lawgivers of history, from the Babylonian King Hammurabi to Confucius to Napoleon to Mohammed

Just as clearly, on the other hand, the First Amendment does not permit former Alabama Supreme Court Judge Roy Moore to place a 2.6-ton monument to the Ten Commandments in the Alabama Supreme Court building, virtually turning the rotunda into a rellieious sanctuary.

The Texas and Kentucky displays lie somewhere between those extremes. The Texas monument is one of 17 on the Capitol grounds, scattered among tributes to Confederate soldiers and pio-

Like a similar monument on the Missouri Capital grunds in Jefferson City, it was donated by the Fractorial Order of Eagles as part of a promotional campaign by Cecil B. Dekillle for his 1956 move "The Ten Commandments." The settings of the Kentucky plaques also have been secularized over the years with the additions of copies of the Magna Carta and the Mayflower Compact of the Capital Ca

What separates the constitutional from the unconstitutional display — size, location, proximity to other historical artifacts, or the statements public officials make

when erecting the displays? The justices appeared to be struggling for answers. Except, that is, for Justice Antonin Scalia, for whom the answer was easy. The Ten Commandments, he declared, is "a symbol of the fact that government derives its authority from God."

But the justices likely to cast the deciding vote weren't so certain. "It's so hard to draw the line," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy asked at one point why an atheist couldn't just "avert his eyes" at the Texas monument. But he also stated it was obvious that the main value of the displays was their "re-

ligious purpose."

Although the Kentucky plaques are much smaller than the Texas monument, they also are harder to defend; the Kentucky counties proclaimed that they were posting the commandment to support Judge Moore, to demonstrate "America's Christian heritage" and to emphasize Jesus Christ's role as "Prince of Februs".

The Kentucky counties subsquenty added other texts, embassizing that the commandments "infunce is clearly seen in the Declaration of Independence." In fact, there is no link between the commandments and the declaration, or were the Ten Commandments mentioned during the Constitution or Vert the Kentucky counties argued that adding secular elements to the Ten Commandments display cured any constitutional problems.



If the court buys this reasoning, it would drag Ten Commandments cases the way of creche decisions finding Nativity scenes standing alone on a courthouse staircase unconstitutional, but ones joined by Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman on the courthouse lawn secular enough for prime time.

Justice O'Connor seemed to consider age a possible criterion for approval, suggesting that preservation of an "old object" might be a nonreligious justification for a Ten

Commandments display. That would have the practical advantage of not requiring bulldozers to remove big granite monuments from the middle of town squares. A majority of Americans believe

in the principles of the Ten Commandments, but that doesn't give government the right to force-feed them to the minority — whether atheists or patheists or Buddhists — that does not. And the transparent ploy of diminishing the commandments' religious significance in an attempt to gain the court's approval of public display insults their very sacrediess.

## Taking steps to understand what service means

BY NANCY Y. BEKAVAC

wery morning at sunrise, I walk my fare mixed-breed dops intrough my small college town. There's a dreamlike quality to most mornings. I've gotten to know my enighbors' gardens and trees. Sometimes I choose the route for specific reasons. On erectiday, it was for the flowering cherry that had just opened, and the last of the crab apple blossoms. The dogs were suntiffing in the ivy when I heard a group of strong young voices calling out a marching cadence.

There's an ROTC unit at this cluster of small colleges, as I walked south, they came toward me, running in formation on the street, three or four abreast, mostly short-haired men, but there were some women with pony tails. They wore gray "ARAM" T-shirts, black shorts and orange web belts. The lead officer, a chesty 60-year-old, responded to my "Hello," and the dogs cross in front of them. As they passed behind me, a woman's voice called out the next verse, and then they all repeat-ed it: "IfI die in a combat zone, put me in a box and ship me home."

Their rubber soles hit the pavement with a dull thud as they jogged slowly past. As reached the far corner, I tried to get hold of my feelings. Only one of them was likely to have seen a combat zone, and I bet none of them had ever looked into "a box."

I teared up suddenly and my chest conracted, remembering my first sightings of body bags on the tarmac in South Vietnam, where I was working as a reporter in 1970. When I was in high school, I'd seen the coffins of young military men and women arriving at the funeral home my family ran in Clairton, Pa. The coffins, accompanied by soldiers, were uncrated from their shipping cases and put on a bier.

I remember the faces of the families, stunned and puzzled, when they faced the coffins, the sound of mulfied sobs and the women wringing their hands and handkerchiefs, if they were older, or tissues for the younger ones.

Then I was brought back to the present by the next cadence: "Put my medals on my chest, tell my mom I did my best."

They ran off, and I lost their sound as the dogs tugged me along. I was blinking fast, remembering those funerals in that other small town, where I had grown up, as friends and ministers gathered to try to console the mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters. My brothers would help the fami-

GEE!...ACCOPDING

to this story,\*

THERE'S A WHOLE

GENERATION

\*USA TOPUL FOR

OF US

ly members into the cars for the trip to the cemetery, and I stayed behind to clean.

The young people I encountered on the street that day could not know or imagine those long-ago scenes, except perhaps as television films or news clips or photos in newspapers. Surely, they must think, those scenes

sould never be about them, or their friends or families; surely their circle of family and buddies would never blink back tears in the morning light as the trumpet sounded taps, or hug the folded flag the soldier handed to them.

My walk continued, toward the bakery and my morning circle of friends, coffee and gossip. Behind me, those shining young people, beautiful in their strength and sure in their purpose, were being molded to defend me — to defend us. Surely, I want none of them harmed — no boxes, no medals, no weeping mothers. But surely I want to be secure, to have all of this protected. If I will that end, must I will that means?

It is no answer to say those young people "volunteered" — what do they know about alternatives? What other way can they afford their expensive colleges? How else can they feel they are serving their country?

This is a very pleasant small town. Once they ran past me, there was no mark that those young soldiers had been there. It would be pleasant to put them out of my mind, to put all that is going on in our name out of my mind, as we do every day. It would be pleasant and wrons.

Nancy Y. Bekavac is president of Scripps College in Claremont, Calif. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

By BRUCE TINSLEY

#### **Mallard Fillmore**

KNOWING THAT I'M
NOT THE ONLY IGNORANT
PERSON WITH NO
RESILIENCE, AND VERY
FEW LIFE-OR JOBNEVERTHELESS
FEELS FEALY GOOD
ABOUT MISELF.

## Gas prices reach \$2 a gallon

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The retail price of gasoline rose 7 cents last week to average \$2 per gallon nationwide, the Energy Department reported Monday.

That's the highest average price since early November, but still six pennies below the peak set last May. The jump in retail gasoline prices coincided with a 25-centper-gallon increase in the price of gasoline futures last week and as crude oil futures briefly rallied above \$55 a barrel.

The government survey said the average price nationwide of regular-grade unleaded gasoline rose 7.1 cents last week to \$1,999 per gallon. Prices are 26.1 cents higher than a year ago.

Pump prices are highest on the West Coast, averaging \$2.174 per gallon, and cheapest on the Gulf Coast, averaging \$1,900 per gallon. In the Midwest, gas aver-

ages are \$2.009 per gallon. One of the key factors that drove the price of gasoline higher was the rising cost of oil - the result of strong demand, tight global supplies, geopolitical uncertainties

and the falling value of the dollar. The price of light crude for March deliv-ery rose 11 cents to \$53.89 a barrel Monday on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil is about 45 percent more expensive than a year ago.

In other Nymex trading, November gasoline futures fell by less than a cent to \$1.5053 per gallon



Newly named Sony Corp. Chairman Howard Stringer, center, his predecessor Nobuyuki Idei, left, and new President Ryoji Chubachi, share a light moment in Tokyo on Monday Stringer became the first foreigner to head the major Japanese electronics firm as the company seeks to improve results at its faltering core electronics business

## Sony taps Westerner to head company

BY YURI KAGEYAMA

The Associated Press

TOKYO - Determined to break with its past, Sony Corp. tapped a foreigner former CBS executive Howard Stringer as CEO Monday and vowed to turn around its lagging electronics sector 44 The pace of innovation across all by linking it with its entertainment businesses - a goal that has long eluded the company.

A native of Wales who later acquired U.S. citizenship, Stringer, 63 has belined make Sony's music and movie business one of the Japanese company's few bright spots in recent years. He replaces Nobuyuki Idei, 67 who has led the Tokyo-based company for a decade.

The shake-up comes amid growing concern about whether Tokyo-based Sony can revive its electronics operations in the face of cheaper competition from Asian rivals.

Foreign executives at major Japanese companies are still extremely rare. The

one exception has been Brazilian-born Carlos Ghosn, chief executive at Nissan Motor Co., who has become a hero here by reviving the automaker from near-collapse to

growth in the past several years. Stringer, vice chairman at Sony and

the businesses in which we compete has changed. So Sony too must change.

> **Howard Stringer** New Sony CFO

chief executive of Sony Corp. of America, was chosen as chairman and chief executive by the board, subject to shareholders' approval in June. He speaks no Japanese.

Sony said Stringer will continue to live in New York and travel between the United States and Japan. He took U.S. citizenship in 1985, becoming a dual British-American national, according to Sony.

Kunitake Ando said he was also stepping down as president to be replaced by Ryoji Chubachi, 57, an executive with experience in Sony's electronics and networking divisions

At a news conference in Tokyo, Stringer brushed off questions about his ability to lead a Japanese company. He joined Sony in 1997 after serving as president of CBS News from 1986 to 1988, and then president of CBS Broadcast Group from 1988 to 1995. CBS is now part of the media conglomerate Viacom Inc.

"As with all great institutions, Sony has built a tremendous legacy over 60 years. But we cannot let that trap us or inhibit us. We need to take that legacy and re-invent it," Stringer said. "The dynamics and competitive landscape have changed. The pace of innovation across all the businesses in which we compete has changed. So Sony too must change.'

#### Monday's Market Summary +1.43 +2.06 +8.45 +2.62 +6.40 -3.92 10,936.86 3,876.13 363.27 7,440.31 Dow Jones Indus Dow Jones Trans Dow Jones Utiliti NYSE Composite Amex Index +35.12 +29.79 +10.37 +20.68 +4.05 1,224.76 1,060.72 S&P 500 679.77 548.29 S&P MidCap 656.11 515.90 Russell 2000 12,063.35 10,268.52 DJ Wilshire 5000 +3.19 +.26 +1.10 +6.81 +.28 -1.18 +.86 +8.67 12.073.6 NASDAQ AMEX MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) Vol (00) Last Ctg Name Vol (00) Last Ctg Name \$55546 6.44 +7.3 SPDR 42058 1.07 +32 SemiHT 253992 27.37 +48 SP Engy 272733 27.18 +33 SPRS200 1 21886 15.40 +29 DIIA Dian 1 218166 15.40 +29 OIIS DIIA Dian 2334 5.57 OISMHT 122.80 34.63 10.96 44.61 128.37 109.33 99.25 +.07 +.62 -.02 -.31 -.32 -.22

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#### **EXCHANGE RATES**

Euro costs\$1.36	
Dollar buys€0.735367	
Japanese yen (March 10)102.00	
South Korean won (March 9)979.00	
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar) 0.377	
Canada (Dollar)1.2272	
Denmark (Krone)5.30	
Egypt (Pound)5.793	
Furo \$1.32/0.7553	
Hong Kong (Dollar)7.8003	
Iceland (Krona)58.57	
Israel (Shekel)4.3271	
Japan (Yen)105.93	
Kuwait (Dinar)0.292	
Norway (Krone)5.85 Philippines (Peso)54.62	
Philippines (Peso)54.62	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)3.58	
Singapore (Dollar)1.6263	
South Korea (Won)1,004.72	
Switzerland (Franc)1.10	
Thailand (Baht)38.33	
Turkey (New Lira)1.2580	
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Netnerrands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing Britist pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interpolated to the control of the property of the property of the price of the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

#### PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES 

### Asian carmakers top magazine's annual list of trouble-free vehicles

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN The Associated Press

DETROIT - U.S. automakers improved the reliability of their products last year, but Hyundai Motor Co. and other Asian companies still make the most trouble-free vehicles, according to a survey released Monday by Consumer Reports magazine.

Customers reported an average of 17 problems per 100 vehicles for 2004 models from Daimler-Chrysler AG's Chrysler Group, Ford Motor Co. and General Mo-tors Corp., the magazine said. That was down from 18 problems per 100 in 2003.

Japanese and Korean automakers had a rate of 12 problems per 100 vehicles - unchanged in the magazine's last three surveys. European automakers, some of whom have battled quality issues in recent years, had 21 problems per 100 vehicles. That's up from 20 a year ago.

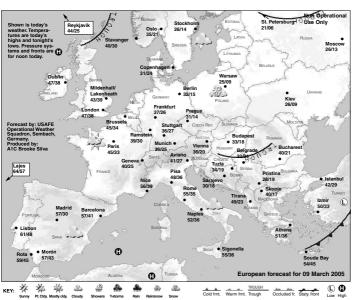
The survey is part of Consumer Reports' annual auto issue, scheduled to hit newsstands Tuesday.

The 2004 Hyundai Sonata was the most reliable vehicle in 2004. with two problems per 100 vehicles. Consumer Reports said the Sonata is "further establishing remarkable around from one of the least reliable brands to one of the best.

As an overall brand, Hyundai recorded a reliability rating of 11 problems per 100 vehicles, tying it with Toyota Motor Corp.'s Lexus and Nissan Motor Co.'s Infiniti nameplates. Subaru was the most reliable brand in 2004, with an average of eight problems per 100 vehicles.

Reliability can vary widely within a company. The 2004 Ford Mustang was the most reliable car made by a U.S. manufacturer, with five problems per 100 vehi-cles, the magazine said. But Ford's Lincoln Navigator sport utility vehicle tied with the Nissan Quest minivan as the least reliable, with 49 problems per 100 vehicles.

Consumer Reports measures reliability by surveying its sub-scribers. The magazine collected data on a record 810,000 privately owned or leased vehicles, 20 per-cent more than the 675,000 vehicles included in last year's sur-



#### For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home New Delhi 73/57 SUN & MOON 93/71 68 Full moon 25 Mar 05

#### Occluded fr. Staty. front Trough MIDEAST Mazar-e-Sharif 63/48 64/47 71/50 Cairo

#### EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rainshowers Highs in the lower to mid 40s. Thursday lows in the mid 30s Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy to

cloudy with isolated afternoon rain-showers. Highs in the 40s. Thursday lows in the upper 30s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the lower to mid 30s. Thursday lows in the upper teens.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s. Thursday lows in the 30s.

lows in the 30s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rain and snow-showers. Highs in the 30s. Thursday lows in the mid teens to mid 20s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with afternoon rain and snow-showers. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Thursday lows in the mid 20s to lower 30s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with afternoon snowshowers. Highs in the lower 30s. Thursday lows in the upper teens. Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in

the 40s. Thursday lows in the upper 20s to mid 30s. Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

Highs in the lower to mid 50s. Thursday lows in the mid 30s. Kosovo: Cloudy with snowshows Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s. Thursday lows in the mid to upper

Norway: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with Norway: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with morning rain and snowshowers. Highs in the mid 30s to lower 40s. Thursday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s. Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s. In the north, Thursday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s. In the south, Thursday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s. In the south, Thursday lows in the 40s.

30s to lower 4us. In the sount, Thursday lows in the 40s. Turkey: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain and snowshowers. In the north and inland, highs in the 40s with Thursday lows in the 4us with Thursday lows in the upper 20s. In the south and west, highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s with Thursday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

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### THE UNITED STATES TODAY





#### **PLANNING A CELEBRATION: USE A DESIGNATED DRIVER**

> About 40.000 people are killed in road accidents on European roads every year.

> The total costs for road accidents are estimated at over 160 billion a year in the European Union. > It is estimated that excessive blood alcohol concentration is involved in 1 out of 4 accidents and better drink-driving management could prevent up to 10.000 fatalities in the EU annually.



US ARMY EUROPE BE PART OF THE SOLUTION! IMA - EUROPE REGION

PAGE 18 · STARS AND S

#### Car theft capital

MD UPPER MARL-BORO — Nearly half of all auto theths in Maryland occur in Prince George's County, though the jurisdiction has only about 15 percent of the state's population, officials say. State delegates from

the county are seeking legislation to help solve the problem.

One bill would require insurance companies to contribute a dollar

One bill would require insurance companies to contribute a dollar for every car insured to a state fund devoted to combating vehicle theft.

#### Riverside development

AL 4.5 miles along the Cahaba River in suburban Birmingham will be kept in its natural state as part of 325 acres set aside for conservation by the developer of the upscale Liberty Park.

The area will be off-limits to funding ture construction or tree clearing and will be maintained in a way that meets federal, state or city conservation policies, project manager Sam Lowery said.

#### Working for a nonprofit

MA BOSTON — The state's nonprofit work force grew by 8.6 percent between 2000 and 2003, while overall employment fell by 4.1 percent, according to a research group. Its report found that nonprofit organizations employed 420,671 people, or 13 percent of the state's work force. That's nearly double the national average of 6.9 percent. Only North Dakota, Washington, D.C., and Vermont have higher percentages of workers in the nonprofit sector, according to the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth.

#### Gimme the M.O.N.F.Y

GA ATLANTA — Marilou braswell, former University of Georgia cheerleading coach, still owes UGA more than \$300,000 for expenses she ran up in the three on-campus cheerleading camps she hosted last summer, officials sav.

A university lawyer says Braswell could face legal action if she doesn't pay up soon. Braswell's husband said the couple disputes the amount UGA says she owes. The university cited food, housing and other services it provided for Braswell's private corporation.

#### Dude, that's my shirt

GRAPEVINE — As Napoleon Dynamite would put it, a sweet deal has fallen into Randall Sowa's lap.

For four summers in the 1980s

Sowa hawked T-shirts with a helicopter image on them designed by a pal, Phil Goettl. Each summer there was a different design. And each summer Sowa sold a couple of hundred shirts to the rough-and-tumble guys who explored — with dynamite — for oil and natural gas in remote areas of the West.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Two decades later, the geeky, quirky, tetherball-loving Napoleon, title hero of the wildly popular cult movie, showed up onscreen wearing these same shirts.

Since "Napoleon Dynamite" was released last spring, Sowa has sold several thousand of the helicopter tees online. Now the shirts will be sold in 600 Hot Topic stores in malls in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

The film, made in 2003 by the husband-and-wife team of Brigham Young University students Jared and Jerusha Hess, has grossed more than \$45 million in theaters alone and sold more than a million DVDs in about three months.

#### Ice cream truck fatality

WEST PALM BEACH — A 2-year-old boy was fatally injured when he ran into the path of an ice cream truck in the parking lot of his apartment complex, and the driver allegedly left the scene, authorities said.

Angela Rodriguez, 27, later turned herself in and was charged with leaving the scene of a fatality, which carries a possible 15-year prison sentence. She was jailed in



50F is just right
With the Washington Monument in
the background, a pair of sailors
maneuver their boat on the
Potomac River in Washington as
temperatures rose to about 50
decrees Farenbeit

lieu of \$100,000 bail.

Witnesses said the driver got out of her truck after the wreck and moved the boy, Moses Joseph, before driv-

ing away.

Moses died after his mother, Emmanuelle Richard ran to him

"That's all she has," said family friend John Chery, who had been on his way to pick up Moses to go to a park. "You just don't know how lovable this child was."

#### Plateau drilling

GRAND JUNCTION

Mess County commissioners backed a recommendation by
federal officials for managing the
Roan Plateau in western Colorado
The plan would allow limited driling on the plateau, an area that environmentalists say is rich with
wildlife and diverse ecosystems.
Elected officials in at least five cities in neighboring Garfield County
oppose the proposal.

#### Price of prosecution

AZ PHOENIX — Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas asked county supervisors for an additional \$6.3 million this year to shore up salaries for prosecutors. The office experienced 17 percent turnover last year. Thomas said that more than 70 percent of all county prosecutors have five years' experience or less.

#### One seat, 3 candidates

DUBUQUE — Democrats are lining up to run in 2006 for Congress in eastern Iowa's 1st District. Rick Dickinson, an economic development official in Dubuque, announced in interpolation of the control of t

#### Avalanche kills man

ASPEN — A man taking an avalanche awareness class died after being trapped in a slide outside the boundaries of the Aspen Highlands ski area, sheriff's officials said.

The man died within a half-hour of being pulled alive from the avalanche, said Ann Stephenson of the Pitkin County sheriff's office.

His name, age and hometown were not released until his family could be notified. Officials were investigating the death.

The man was in a group of six people who were part of a class sponsored by the backcountry expedition company Aspen Expeditions, Stephenson said. A man answering the phone at Aspen Expeditions referred all questions to au-

It was not clear what triggered the avalanche.

Early estimates were that the avalanche slid 3,000 vertical feet, said mountain weather and avalanche forecaster Scott Toepfer of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center



World upside down Mike Brumet goes "over the falls" while riding a huge wave during the first heat of the Mavericks Surf Competition in Half Moon Bay, Calif.



It's a yawmer

A 4-week-old bear cub yawns while
its siblings rest after being weighed
and measured during a den study in Cottonball, Ark. Black bears in
Arkansas have been on the comeback trail for the past several decades.
After the bears were wiped out in the 19th and early 20th centuries,
blologists reintroduced 254 bears into the Arkansas wilderness during
the 1960s. Now the state's black bear population is about 3,500.



Alluring goods Claire Ablett, center, her husband, Graham, and son, Tom, 11, far right, of Lincolnshire, England, look at Cartier watches while visiting upscale stores at the Mall at Millenia in Ordando, Fla., Ordando tourism officials have unveiled an \$8 million marketing campaign to fure tourists seeking hauver soods.



On the march the fall of the Alamo in San Antonio.

Week 2005

RIPES - MARCH 9, 2005

People portraying the Texan army march during the San Antonio Living History Association's "Dawn at the Alamo," a ceremony commemorating



Circle of death
The husband and wife daredevil team of Don Daniels II and Sandra
D. ride the Wall of Death together on their vintage Harley and Indian motorcycles at the Iron Horse Saloon in Ormond Beach, Fla., during Bike



Logging out
U.S. Forest Service Law
Enforcement officers carry a chair
with 72-year-old Joan Norman after
she refused to move from a logging
access road leading to the Fiddler
timber sale in Oregon.



Long brush strokes

Clarence Lambert, with Expert Window Cleaning, Co., of Baton Rouge, La., uses a water brush system reaching more than 40 feet from the ground to wash outside windows along the crosswalk from the Argosy Artium to the casino in downtown Baton Rouge.

#### To reek or not to reek

CA SAN LUIS OBISPO — A new county law aims to keep readers from reeking.

Libraries in San Luis Obispo County have had their own rules banning offensive body odor since 1994, but the policy became law after the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that lets authorities kick out malodorous guests.

The law can raise tough questions for librarians, said Irene Macias, Santa Barbara's library services manager.

"What is bad odor?" Macias asked. "A woman who wears a strong perfume? A person who had a garlicky meal?"

#### 'PEZheads' unite

DE PERE — For most people, PEZ is just a candy, but Barry Umbs calls his addiction to collecting PEZ dispensers "a bit of an illness."

Umbs, an engineering manager for Rockwell Automation in Milwaukee, joined some 60 other self-described "PEZheads" at a convention in De Pere.

The man has been a feverish PEZ dispenser collector for the past 15 years, and seeks not only each kind of dispenser, such as ones featuring Bugs Bunny, but the same kind from different countries, with different patent numbers and packaging.

The event, the second held by Bryan and Tammy Lewis of De Pere, offered PEZheads the chance to buy, sell and swap their dispensers, show off their collections, and share PEZ news.

### LA BATON ROUGE — In Loui-

siana, not just anyone can sell a bunch of pretty flowers. You have to have a license.

U.S. District Judge Frank Polozola ruled that the state can keep its unique law requiring florists to pass a test and get a license to work on their own. Would-be florists had argued that the law unconstitutionally bars them from entering the occupation. About half of all applicants fail

About half of all applicants fail the test, which includes a written exam and one in which they must create four floral arrangements in as many hours. Unlicensed "floral clerks" can work only in a shop that also has a licensed florist.

"There are few occupational licensing laws as crazy as this one in this country," said Clark Neily with the Institute for Justice, a libertarian nonprofit law firm in Washington, D.C.

Neily has argued that the question of who has floral talent should be left to the market: people whose arrangements are ugly would soon find themselves without customers.

#### Student stabbed at party

MA AMHERST — A University of Massachusetts student was stabbed in the neck during a party on campus, school officials said.

UMass spokesman Ed Blaguszewski said the stabbing occurred around 12:30 a.m. on a Sunday at the Student Union Ballroom. The crowd of about 700 gathered after a fashion show earlier in the evening at the Student Union.

The stabbing occurred during a fight that was broken up by UMass police officers using pepper spray.

The student, who was not identified, was treated at Holyoke Hospital and released, Blaguszewski said. No suspects have been identified

#### Don't fish the state fish

NE LINCOLN — An animal rights group has a beef with the state fish.

People for the Ethical Treat-

ment of Animals is asking Gov. Dave Heineman to declare the channel catfish, Nebraska's state fish off limits to fishing.

fish, off limits to fishing. PETA launched a campaign last year to ban fishing, arguing that it is a cruel thing to do.

Heineman rejected the request. "Fishing is a time honored tradition in Nebraska, and I have no intention of modifying Nebraska's fishing guidelines," he said.

#### Better than 'Survivor'

CA SAN FRANCISCO — They value privacy, solitude and penthouse living.

And yet expectant parents George and Gracie are now starring in their own reality show. All it takes are two peregrine fal-

All it takes are two peregrine falcons, one Web camera and \$30,000 from a corporate giant.

"They're part of life here in downtown San Francisco," said Brian Swanson, a spokesman for that corporate giant, Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

The birds live on a 33rd-floor

ledge of the utility's headquarters.
An Internet presence will substantially increase the raptors' voyeuristic fan club. The comings and goings of the falcons can be seen at www.scpbrg.org.

#### Destructive grass fires

CARSON—Grass fires driven by 45 mph wind swept across an area of southwestern Iowa, destroying four rural homes and blackening more than 4,000 acres.

The largest of the blazes was started by a house fire east of Carson, said Terry Hummel, the county's emergency management coordinator. It was not immediately clear if that house was one of the four that were destroyed.

The blazes jumped bare fields and ditches as wind gusted to 45 mph and temperatures rose to record highs in the 70s, spreading across about 12 miles in the county east of Omaha, Neb.

Two firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation.

#### Tomato, tamahto

TRENTON — The humble tomato may technically be a fruit, but lawmakers here consider it a vegetable.

Members of the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Monday approved a measure designating the Jersey tomato as the official state vegetable. A similar proposal is pending in a Senate committee.

Sponsors of the measure get around the fact that the tomato is considered a fruit by using a century-old U.S. Supreme Court ruling that slapped a vegetable tariff on tomatoes, similar to the tax placed on cucumbers, squashes and beans.

"Botanically it's a fruit, legally it's a vegetable," said Sen. Ellen Karcher, who is co-sponsoring the Senate version of the bill.

Stories and photos from wire services

			ΛED	TC Talevisio	n Cobodulo			
	AFRTS Television Schedule  Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFVs Web bits at http://mysln.dodmedia.osd.mil/							
				WEDNESDAY, MARCH !	,			
	AFN-FAMILY Stanley	AFN-MOVIE  Movie "Miracle on the Moun-	(AFN-EUROPE)	AFN-KOREA Jeopardy!	(AFN-NEWS) Hardhall With Chris Matthews	(AFN-SPORTS) NBA Basketball Teams to Be	SPECTRUM 30-Minute Meals	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	tain: The Kincaid Family Story"	Dr. Phil	Headline News	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Announced. (Taped)	Food 911	Jeopardy! Headline News
10:00	Arthur "The Blizzard." (EI)	(2000, Adventure) Patty Duke.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	The O'Reilly Factor	1	Sensible Chic	ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI)	(:45) Movie "Dangerous Li-	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	1		Fashion File	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	aisons" (2003, Drama) Cather- ine Deneuve, Rupert Everett, A		That '70s Show	Nightline		E! News Live	That '70s Show
11:30	Stanley "The Pond Couple"  Dora the Explorer	scheming seductress manipu-	(:17) General Hospital Headline News	Arrested Development The Casino	Nightly Business Report Fox and Friends First	SportsCenter	The King of Queens That '70s Show	Arrested Development Extreme Makeover: Home
12:00 12:30	The Wiggles	lates the lives of others.	Judge Judy	The Casino	rox and rhelius rirst	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	Girlfriands	Edition "Hardin Family"
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie * * "On Thin Ice"	Today Bobin Williams: Bingling	The District "Hollow Spaces"	American Morning	Announced. (Taped)	Charmed "Charmed Again"	Lost "Raised by Another"
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)	(2000, Cornedy) Nicholle Tom, Thomas Calabro, Alan Thicke.	Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Cir- cus: Today's Kitchen.				(Part 1 of 2)	· ·
14:00	Blue's Clues		cus; rodays Krichen.	Pacific Report			Strong Medicine "Wednesday Night Fever"	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI) Funniest Home Videos	(:43) Movie *** The Cider House Rules" (1999)		The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		SportsCenter	Any Day Now "It's a Good	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
15:00 15:30	Growing Pains	Tobey Maguire, Charlize	Sylvester & Tweety Buzz Lightyear of Star	Late Show With David Letter-		Sportscenter	Thing I'm Not Black"	Late Show With David Letter-
16:00	Pokémon "Stage Fight"	Theron. A young man leaves his orphanage home to find	SpongeBob SquarePants	man	FOX News		Third Watch "After Time"	man
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!	himself.	Batman Beyond "Heroes"	The Late Late Show With				The Late Late Show With
17:00	Doug A wedding celebration.	Inside the Actors Studio *Charl-	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson	FOX News	SportsCenter	Law & Order "All My Children"	Craig Ferguson
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys The Fairly OddParents	ize Theron' Charlize Theron.	Headline News	Dennis Miller	FOX News	NBA Fasthreak	T1 - 0'	Dennis Miller
18:00 18:30	Rugrats	Coming Attractions Entertainment Tonight	AFNews on Assignment AFN Evening News	Countdown With Keith Olber-	FUX News	ESPNews	The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olber-
19:00	Even Stevens	Movie * "Exit Wounds"	That '70s Show	mann	DaySide With Linda Vester	SportsCenter	American Idol	mann
19:30	Kenan & Kel	(2001, Action) Steven Seagal,	Arrested Development	Access Hollywood	1			Access Hollywood
20:00	Gilmore Girls Lorelai and Emi-	DMX, Isaiah Washington.	Extreme Makeover: Home	Headline News	FOX News	College Basketball Big East	American Idol	Headline News
20:30	ly sneak out of the health spa.	(:43) Movie * * "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" (1998)	Edition "Hardin Family"	Entertainment Studios.com		Tournament First Round Teams TBA. From Madison Square Gar-		Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Degrassi: Next	Angela Bassett, Taye Diggs. A	Lost "Raised by Another"	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	den in New York. (Live)	National Geographic Explorer	The Hot List
21:30 22:00	Degrassi: Next The Cosby Show	middle-aged workaholic redis- covers her passionate side.	Headline News	Headline News Good Morning America		College Basketball Confer-	Friends	Headline News Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement	covers ner passionate side.	The Tonight Show With Jay	GOOD MOTHING AMERICA	Your World With Neil Cavuto	ence USA Tournament First	Seinfeld "The Sponge"	dood morning America
23:00	Touched by an Angel "True	Movie ★★★ "Charlie's An-	Leno		Lester Holt Live	Round Teams TBA. (Live)	Daily Show-Jon Stewart	
23:30	Confessions"	gels" (2000) Cameron Diaz.	Late Show-Letterman			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	
				THURSDAY, MARCH 10				
00:00	Doug (EI)	(11:00) "Charlie's Angels"	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
00:30 1:00	Rocket Power (Part 2 of 3) The Fairly OddParents	(:43) Movie *** "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951,	Access Hollywood College Basketball Teams to	Bear in the Big Blue House Oobi	NBC Nightly News ABC World News Tonight	College Basketball Big East	American Idol	Bear in the Big Blue House Oobi
1:00	Rugrats Medieval fair.	Science Fiction) Michael Ren-	Be Announced. (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	CBS Evening News	Tournament First Round Teams	American Idol	Wheel of Fortune
2:00	Even Stevens	nie, Patricia Neal.		Dr. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim	TBA. From Madison Square Gar- den in New York. (Live)	American Idol	Dr. Phil
2:30	Kenan & Kel	Coming Attractions			Lehrer			
3:00	Gilmore Girls Lorelai and Emi- ly sneak out of the health spa.	Movie * "Exit Wounds" (2001, Action) Steven Seagal,	College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes	SportsCenter	National Geographic Explorer	Oprah Winfrey
3:30	Degrassi: Next	DMX, Isaiah Washington.	De Alliounceu. (Live)	NBC Nightly News	The Fox Report With Shepard	College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round Teams	Friends	NBC Nightly News
4:00 4:30	Degrassi: Next	(:43) Movie * * "How Stella		Judge Judy	Smith	TBA. From Madison Square Gar-	Seinfeld "The Sponge"	Judge Judy
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	Got Her Groove Back" (1998)	ABC World News Now	Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight	den in New York. (Live)	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
5:30	1	Angela Bassett, Taye Diggs. A middle-aged workaholic redis-	ESPNews	(:25) Guiding Light	1	SportsCenter	Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	covers her passionate side.	CBS Evening News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live		Body Shaping	(:13) General Hospital
6:30	Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI) Dragon Tales (EI)	Inside the Actors Studio "Charl-	NBC Nightly News Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	(:41) ESPNews NASCAR Nation	TIPical Mary Ellen The View	Legend of Tarzan
7:00 7:30	Bob the Builder	ize Theron' Charize Theron.	Bear in the Big Blue House	Larry King Live	Newsnight with Aaron Brown	NASCAN NATION	The view	Aaahh! Real Monsters
8:00	The Wiggles	Coming Attractions	Oobi	Rocko's Modern Life	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	Sabrina, the Animated Series
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	Nick News Special Edition	Tavis Smiley			Nick News Special Edition
9:00	Stanley	Movie * * "Picnic" (2000,	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews	To Be Announced	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Arthur "D.W. Tale Soin." (EI)	Drama) Josh Brolin, Gretchen Mol. A drifter sparks turmoil in a	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News ESPNews	The O'Reilly Factor		Low Carb & Lovin It	Headline News ESPNews
10:00	Reading Rainbow (EI)	small Kansas town.	(35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O'Helly Factor		Design on a Dime Style Star	Pacific Report
10:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:50) Movie *** "A Civil	(.oo, calcing Light	Two and a Half Men	Nightline	SportsCenter	E! News Live	Two and a Half Men
11:30	Stanley	Action" (1998) John Travolta. A	(:17) General Hospital	(:25) Will & Grace	Nightly Business Report		The King of Queens	(:25) Will & Grace
12:00	Dora the Explorer	lawyer faces an uphill battle against two large companies.	Headline News	Alias "Time Will Tell"	Dan Rather: A Reporter Re-	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	That "70s Show "The Keg"	Desperate Housewives
12:30	The Wiggles	1 .	Judge Judy		members	Announced. (Taped)	Girlfriends	"Guilty"
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie ** "Some Kind of Wonderful" (1987) Eric Stoltz.	Today Willard Scott; Jack Gillis; pasta; more beauty for less.	A Katie Couric Special: The 4- 1-1: Teens & Sex	American Morning		Charmed "Charmed Again" (Part 2 of 2)	A Katie Couric Special: The 4- 1-1: Teens & Sex
13:30 14:00	Dragon Tales (EI) Blue's Clues	A shy teen tries to win the most	,,	Pacific Report	ł		Strong Medicine "Mortality"	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)	popular girl in school.		The Tonight Show With Jay	1	SportsCenter	outing medicine monany	The Tonight Show With Jay
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2:49) Movie **s "Multiplici-	Legend of Tarzan	Leno		·	Any Day Now "Three Hours a	Leno
15:30	Growing Pains "Superdad"	ty" (1996) Michael Keaton. Sci- entifically created duplicates	Aaahh! Real Monsters	Late Show With David Letter-		To Be Announced	Week"	Late Show With David Letter-
16:00	Pokémon	complicate a man's life.	Sabrina, the Animated Series	man	FOX News		Third Watch "The Relay"	man
16:30 17:00	Yu-Gi-Oh! "Steppin' Out"  Doug "Doug's Last Birthday"	FilmFakers "Holly Holiday"	Nick News Special Edition	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	FOX News	SportsCenter	Law & Order 'Brother's Keep-	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson
17:00	The Wild Thomberrys	rillilrakers nolly nollday	Headline News	Dennis Miller	rox news	Sportscenter	er"	Dennis Miller
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Ebert-Movies	Destinations		FOX News	College Basketball Big Ten	The Simpsons	
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Countdown With Keith Olber-		Tournament First Round		Countdown With Keith Olber-
19:00	Unfabulous "The Picture"	Movie * * "American Pie"	Two and a Half Men	mann	Dan Rather: A Reporter Re-	Teams TBA. From the United Center in Chicago. (Live)	American Idol	mann
19:30	All That Jennifer Love Hewitt.	(1999, Comedy) Jason Biggs, Shannon Flizabeth	(:25) Will & Grace	Access Hollywood	members FOX News		*	Access Hollywood
20:00	7th Heaven "The Kid Is Out of the Picture"		Desperate Housewives "Guilty"	Headline News Entertainment Studios.com	FUX NEWS	College Gamenight College Basketball Big Ten	The Practice 'Baby Love'	Headline News Entertainment Studios.com
20:30 21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(:44) Movie ** "What Lies Beneath" (2000, Suspense)	A Katie Couric Special: The 4-	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	Tournament First Round	48 Hours Mystery A mother	The Hot List
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Harrison Ford, Michelle Pfeiffer.	1-1: Teens & Sex	Headline News	1	Teams TBA. From the United	vanishes without a trace.	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	A housewife is swept up in a spirit's supernatural revenge.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	Center in Chicago. (Live)	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show With Jay			SportsCenter	Seinfeld "The Gum"	
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Quality Time"	Movie * "Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach"	Leno		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	Daily Show-Jon Stewart	
23:30	11110	ProorArtment within pegcu.	Late Show-Letterman	l	1	Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	



### **FACES**



### Yeardley Smith steps out of her alter-ego's shadow with a one-woman show

jobs in the universe.

And I feel deeplu

connected to Lisa. I'm

BY LYNNE HEFFLEY Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD y most measures, Yeardley Smith is a success: an Emmy Award, a reported \$5.5 million salary, a place in entertainment history as part of TV's longest-running sit-

Dressed in jeans, T-shirt and blue cardigan. Smith easily blends in with other mall denizens. But what's in that paper bag she's toting?

"I washed my purse last night, and it was still damp this morning," she offers. Ah, earnest and obscure. An explanation

worthy of Smith's animated alter ego: brainy, soulful and quirky Lisa, whom she voices on "The Simpsons

At a yarn shop and a tea import store where she's a regular, the owner and staff greet Smith with easy familiarity. But other customers remain unaware that there's a TV star in the house, even when Smith's kid-like voice ("my mother always said my voice could cut glass") shifts naturally into Lisa Simpson's plaintive, higher register

That's life for an invisible celebrity. "It's one of the greatest jobs in the universe," she says. "And I feel deeply connected to Lisa. I'm so proud of her

And yet, the anonymity Smith experiencas the voice of a cartoon character, while comfortable, is peculiarly chafing for

someone who would "never, ever take the liberty of resting on 44 It's one of the areatest my laurels in any way.

shape or form." So much so, that she is stepping out of her comfort zone with an personal

intensely one-woman show Called "More," it is a seriocomic chronicle of what has been a lifetime quest for enough

fame, enough love - and enough food - to assuage Smith's "sucking vortex of need" to succeed

Directed by Tony Award-winning actor Judith Ivey, "More" ran off-Broadway last ear; a revised version of the show opened Feb. 18 for a three-week run at the Falcon

Theatre in Burbank, Calif. "It was important that it be funny, but I had to dig deep to do it well," Smith says. "It's the hardest work I've ever done."

Among the intimacies she shares within

her secret battle with bulimia.

a framework of whimsy and salty humor is "I didn't have time for hangovers, so I was bulimic instead. For 25 years. And nobody ever knew. It was easier to keep under wrans than fall-

ing down drunk. It gave you this incredible sense of control. and boy, you thrived on that illusion.'

"More" isn't about "chest-pounding," Ivev insists. "It's whimsical and wacky with a universality to

so proud of her. ?? Yeardley Smith it, whether you're bu-limic or not, whether actress, on voicing Lisa Simpson you're an actor or Smith seemed well on her way to adora-

tion and fame when, at 19, she made it to Broadway, appearing in the 1984 production of Tom Stoppard's "The Real Thing. That early breakthrough was followed by big parts in forgettable films, small parts in Oscar-winning films ("City Slickers" and "As Good as It Gets") and regular roles in sitcoms ("Dharma & Greg " and "Herman's Head")

Stardom without the face time Smith

craved came in 1987, a year after she had appeared in Terry Garner's play "Livin' on Salvation Street," at the Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles. "I think 12 people, total, came to see it," Smith says.

Fortunately, one of them was psons" producer Bonnie Pietila, who re-membered Smith when casting Matt Groening's animated clips for "The Tracy Ullman Show," where "The Simpsons"

Over lunch at Fox Studios, after recording new Lisa lines, Smith muses that being able to reveal herself so publicly marks a turning point for her. She's still angst-ridden - she'll never work again, she'll cause hurt feelings by choosing one knitting class over another, her show will bomb and damage the theater's reputation — but she's learning to focus on what she has accomplished, "not on what's undone."

Her marriage of two years (to actor Daniel Erickson) has helped. So has an eating disorder recovery program. Her voice-over Emmy, once a symbol of her failure as an actor with a body as well as a voice, has been rescued from a closet shelf. It appears on stage with her, as does a cutout of Lisa Simpson, who she says always makes her happy.
"Think of all that energy that I've wasted

being this hard on myself," she says.

#### **Tucker seeks protection**

Country singer Tanya Tucker has filed an order of protection against her former fiance, whom Tucker claims has harassed and assaulted her

Tucker, 46, alleges that Jerry Laseter, 43, has harassed her before shows, grabbed her by the throat. given her a black eye and threatened her. The former couple have a daughter. Lavla, 5

The order was signed by a William-



Tucker

son County, Tenn., judge on Thursday. A court hearing is scheduled for April 1. Laseter denied the allegations Friday, saying he had never been physically abusive in any way.

#### Princess gets fairy tale nod

Her marriage to a crown prince was like a fairy tale, so it was fitting when the Australian-born crown princess of Denmark was named as an honorary Hans Christian Andersen ambassador

Princess Mary, a former Sydney real estate worker who married Danish Crown Prince Frederik in a lavish ceremony in Copenhagen last year, will promote the Dan"The Little Mermaid" and "The Ugly Duckling."

ish author's works in Australia as part of her new role.

#### Teen's cameo wish granted

A Wisconsin teen who has had four heart surgeries spent the day recently at a hospital of a different kind.

Born in 1805, Andersen is known for classics such as

Kassie Crose, 19, of Green Bay, had a walk-on role on the ABC soap opera "General Hospital." Plus, she got to meet actor Maurice Benard. The Florida-based Kids Wish Network fulfilled Crose's wish applicationbased on the teen's long battle with congenital heart disease

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

### Horoscope

The day gets off to a fabulous start, until that fink in the plan — this looks oddy familiar. It's easy to biame your spouse, friends or the powers that be for the problem that keeps returning to your life like a boomerang. The sun, moon, Venus and Uranus all transiting psychic Pisces lends great intuitive powers if you turn inward for the truth.

#### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 9). It's one of the most joyful years once you

determine where to apply yourself. When you happily contribute to someone in the next 10 weeks, you light up a life — and so are put in touch with your deep need to help others. The social swirl upfils you in April and May. New training in August improves finances. Love signs are Aries and Aquarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A beatific scene has you wondering: Is this the calm before the storm? Yes, it is. So get your iced tea, sit on the deck, prop up your feet, and enjoy the fine "weather" while it lasts.

#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

The demands of family and work are a bit heavier than usual. Deep breathing will help you get perspective. Silly things diffuse stress — Gemini and Aquarius are experts at making you laugh.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).**Put yourself in a challenging position. When you trust yourself to

adapt and cope, you gain confidence. That's why learning new words or following new interests makes you strong in totally unrelated areas of life.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).
Loved ones relate their situation to you, and your opinion rises quickly to the surface. To speak or not to speak — that is the question. It is nobler to bear the slings and arostay of a loved one's reaction than to stay

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Everything goes right if you feel good. You don't have to pop vitamins to follow

the principles of holistic health. The bottom line is, nutritious food and enough exercise improve your mood and attitude

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have a one-track mind. The

**Holiday Mathis** 

caper is all planned out. Now, can you convincingly pull it off? Probably better than most. But with a Sagittarius or Leo by your side, it's as good as

#### LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). You're highly impressionable today. Too much main-stream media will have you focused on fear and negativity. Spend your

precious moments in nature, with animals or reading inspirational materials.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).
Cleave to your humanity. The imperfections you see in your brothers and sisters are the very ones you have the power to fix in yourself. That doesn't stop you from being irritated, but it might stop you from

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in the habit of thinking of yourself as a free agent, but someone close to you is in the habit of trying to pin you down. It used to be flattering, but now, you're busy practicing the moves to get yourself out of the hold.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.
19). Love does a jittery tap dance in your heart. The temptation is to give your power away by blindly following that oh-so-charismatic someone. Of course, you already have all the

answers you need. Trust yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Your style is so distinct that you train
people to go to you for what they
need because no one else will do.

New clients, customers and sources
of income are featured.

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

There's much going in your favor, but your need for introspection may cause you not to see it like everyone around you does. No matter. As Carl Jung said: "Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes."

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**Beetle Bailey** 

#### Peanuts

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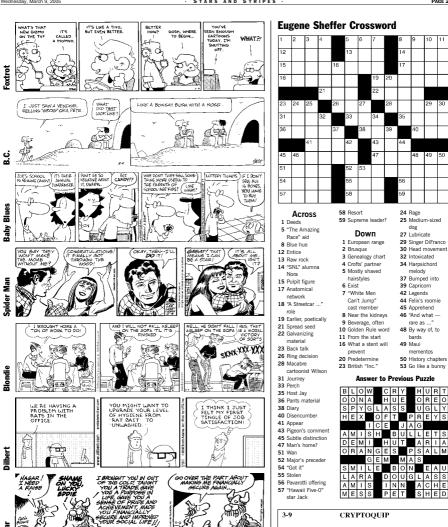








Wednesday, March 9, 2005 - STARS AND STRIPES - PAGE 23



JAN CGC VTUNZ JR YNVXN

JAN PRCXNCJ, LGJ TAN

IRGCZ KJ ZKIIKPGYJ JR

T A V U N J A N A V L K J . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A POST OFFICE BURNED DOWN, I PRESUME IT WOULD LOOK LIKE A CASE OF BLACKMAIL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals F

### **New HIV strain should sound alarm**

Dear Abby: The recent news of a possible new strain of HIV that is drug-resistant to three of the four classes of anti-HIV drugs and may progress to AIDS in months rather than years, should provide a wake-up call to those who are not practicing safer sex and/or are still

sharing needles and syringes. Time after time I hear young people say they're not worried about being exposed to HIV/AIDS because, should they get infected, they can take the appropriate medicine and they'll be fine. Unfortunately, they could be dead wrong. If they become infected the medicines they will have to take can cause serious side effects and must be taken for the rest of their lives. Also, not all people benefit from the medica tions, especially those who are unfortunate enough to be infected

classes of drugs.

Abby, people need to understand that HIV is not spread through the air, or from shaking hands or hugging someone who has the virus. If you have unpro tected sex or share needles and syringes you could become infected. It's up to all of us to

Dear Abby protect ourselves and our partners. - Mervyn R. Silverman, M.D., Former President.

American Foundation for AIDS Research Dear Dr. Silverman: I agree that it's critically important for folks to protect themselves and their loved ones from sexually transmitted

diseases (STDs). In order to do that, they must act responsibly. I hope the announcement will remind everyone about a subject that seems to have been forgotten in the last decade

Dear Abby: I'm 16 and a sophomore in high school. I have been struggling with my weight for two years. I have tried Weight Watchers and other weight-loss programs, and I try not to eat between meals or consume a lot of junk food - but I just can't stop.

My narents keen pressuring me to lose 40 pounds. Even my friends say I should lose weight They say if I do, my crush would notice me more. Can you give me any tips for losing weight?

 Chubby in Cleveland Dear Chubby: Everything has a price. If you want to lose weight, the price you'll have to pay is abstaining from high-carb, high-fat, empty-calorie food for a

Losing weight is like banking: If you eat more calories than you "spend," you'll have fat in your "savings account." If you spend more calories than you save, you'll gradually become lean and

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

VAREN

VOYEC

GLUTLE

RAYLEY

Unscramble these four Jumbles one letter to each square We need every able body to help prevent a flood to form four ordinary words



WHAT IT TOOK TO SANDBAG THE TOWN AGAINST THE RISING RIVER.

Now arrange the circled letters

to form the surprise answer, as

suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A



### ready resistant to one or more **Carefully suggest ADD treatment**

with a strain of virus that's al-

Dear Annie: My son-in-law might have ADD. He exhibits nervousness and impulsive behavior. While having a conversation with him, he is not really engaged but instead is formulating his next question, which is often totally off-topic. He makes out-of-the-blue,

off-the-wall comments Several years ago, my daughter was asked about the possibility that her husband had ADD, and she admitted he might, but nothing was done with that information. Given the recent television awareness campaign for adult ADD and the emergence of new drugs as a possible solution, it would appear there could be a way to improve the lives of my daughter and son-in-law. Can I tactfully suggest that my daugh-ter revisit this issue, or should I

- Caring Father Dear Caring Father: That TV ad campaign is paid for by a pharma ceutical company, and it has its



own agenda to promote Your son-in-law may not have ADD, but if you feel you must do son thing, give your daugh-ter the address of the Attention Deficit Disorder Association (www.add.org), P.O. 543, Pottstown, PA 19464 and tell her she might want to check it out. The rest is up to

r. You are treading a fine line between caring and interfering, but you know that. A lot depends upon how likely your daughter is to listen to you, and how receptive her husband will be if she brings up the subject. Please allow her to handle it

Dear Annie: I soon will be 16 years old, and I have many close friends whom I e-mail almost every night, including one who lives in Texas and another in Hawaii

I usually get on the computer and instant-message after finishing my homework, but lately, my dad has been coming into the room, saying he wants to send some e-mails. I know his e-mails are important, so I give him the computer to do his work, but afterward, he sits and plays Solitaire for a really long time. I can't get back on the computer for hours, and my friends are

often asleep or busy by then.

I don't know what, exactly, to ay to my dad. I know his e-m take precedence, and there's nothing wrong with Solitaire, but my friends are important to me. and I'm starting to miss them.

 — Alone, But Not Lonely
Dear Not Lonely: There's no reason Dad can't work out a schedule so you each get to use the computer

Here's how to say it: "Dad, could you please set aside a specific time when I can use the computer every night? I promise when the time is up, I will get off immediately so you can use it Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmallbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c'o Creators Sync

cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

#### **Family Circus**



"Who wants to guess what PJ drew a picture of?"

## POPULATION EXPLOSION 6 HEIR IS Mamuh

© Gary I "Whatever he likes, be sure to take it off our grocery list."



"I dunno. We're just so far up, ik this would be better on the tube.



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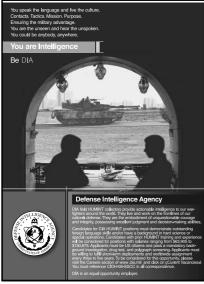
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## Woods back on top, but for how long?

BY DOUG FERGUSON

MIAMI — Getting back to No. 1 in the world wasn't easy for Tiger Woods.

It took him eight tournaments over six months to nudge past Vijay Singh in the world ranking. And it required a Herculean effort against Phil Mickelson to win the Ford Championship at Doral, including some clutch shots that

will be talked about the rest of the year.

Woods drove the 347-yard 16th green on Saturday. He
twice reached the 603-yard 12th hole in two shots and
made a 25-foot eagle putt in the final round to take the lead
for the first time.

He made a 30-foot putt on the 17th hole that turned out to be the difference. And his 63-66 was the lowest weekend by a winner in the 44-year history at Doral.

"That was special," Woods said of his duel with Mickel-

The last time Woods took over No. 1 in the world ranking, he won a memorable duel by making a clutch putt on the 17th hole at Medinah to beat 19-year-old Sergio Garcia in the final major of the millennium.

Woods then stayed on top for the next 264 weeks.

This time, it might not be that easy. His reign could be over at the end of this week, or per-

haps the end of the month.

"He's certainly going to have increased competition that he hasn't had in past years," Jack Nicklaus said Monday.

"You heard me a couple of years ago. What will happen to Tiger? I said a lot of his competition had not shown up yet, or guys playing against him will raise the level of their golf."

Nicklaus quickly ticked off the names of Mickelson, Singh and Retief Goosen, all of whom won majors last year, and all of whom were in the top eight at Doral Halfway around the world, Ernie Els produced a dramatic finish of his own by making an 18-foot eagle on the last hole tow in the Dubai Desert Classic.

Call it golf's version of March Madness

"It's a great week for golf," said Zach Johnson, who tied for third with Singh at Doral. "This is what the spectators want. They want these kind of duels. They will have a lot more of them. Tiger raised the bar. And now everybody is starting to come toward him"

After Woods won the '99 PGA Championship, he ended the season with four straight victories, then reeled off one



Back at No. 1 in the world rankings, Tiger Woods will have a harder time remaining there than he did before.

of the greatest seasons in golf. Not only did he win nine tournaments and three straight majors in 2000, he won by record margins and left everyone so far behind that it appeared he would be No. 1 until retirement.

Now the list of challengers is longer than ever. Singh might be able to return to No. 1 this week if he

Els' victory in Dubai was his first of the year and puts him in a good frame of mind on the road to the Masters. The Big Easy is close enough that he could be No. 1 by the end of the month.

Mickelson lost another final-round showdown with

Woods, although he still might be the hottest player in golf. Coming off a five-shot victory in Phoenix and a wire-to-wire win at Pebble Beach, Lefty spent 10 consecutive rounds atop the leaderboard in stroke play and was shocked the streak didn't stretch to 11.

His back-to-back birdies after Woods pulled ahead for the first time was evidence that Mickelson is not one to wilt. He had a 30-foot birdie chip on the final hole that

lipped out of the cup.

"I felt like I was playing better than anybody," Mickelson said. "I just knew I was going to win, and when I didn't, it was a great slap in the face. Because I'm going to work my tail off to salvage a couple more shots. When I come back to The Players Championship and the Masters, I'm going to be ready."

On the surface, Woods looks as dynamic as ever.

After going four years without a comeback victory, Woods now has two in a row. He came from two shot down at Torrey Pines against Tom Lehman, then made up a two-shot deficit against Mickelson in the final round at Doral.

Woods beat Mickelson, but not without a tremendous effort.

"That shows you what kind of competitor Phil is,"
Woods said. "Don't forget what he did on that back nine.
That was impressive to watch."
Equally impressive are the first two months of the PGA

Equally impressive are the first two months of the PGA Four season.

Singh won the Sony Open with a birdie on the final hole,

after Els had closed with a 62. Woods and Mickelson each have won twice.

And while Els squandered two chances in Hawaii, the

And while Els squandered two chances in Hawaii, the victory in Dubai was important.

The only question mark right now is Singh.

He missed the cut at Pebble Beach and was eliminated in the second round of the Match Play Championship. Singh hit the ball beautifully at Doral, but simply couldn't make enough putts. Still, it was his first top 10 finish since Hawaii

Singh slipped out a side door without talking about his final round Sunday. He is the only player among the top five who is playing this week in the Honda Classic.

Mickelson is taking two weeks off, one of those a skiing trip with his family in Colorado.

Woods will take off next week before resuming his road to the Masters — Bay Hill, The Players Championship, a week to practice and then on to Augusta, where he could find a large crowd of players capable of stopping him.

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wins the Honda Classic.

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## Nicklaus likely to skip Masters Ry DOUG FERGUSON gathering Monday morning at how he fainted when his wife Rac.

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — Jack Nicklaus had planned to squeeze in a few trips to Augusta National this month, making sure his 65-year-old body was fit and his game was good enough to compete in the Masters.

Now, the Masters is the last thing on his mind.

"I think with what's happened to us in our family, my time is going to be spent in much different ways," Nicklaus said Monday, his first public comments since his 17-month-old grandson drowned in a hot tub. "That's the most important thing right now. And I think it will be the most important thing for a long time."

Nicklaus said his chances of playing the Masters are "between slim and none," although he plans to be at Augusta National for the Champions Dinner, maybe even the Par 3 Tournament.

He still would like to play the British Open at St. Andrews in July since this is his last year of eligibility and because his son, Steve, wants to caddie for him.

It was Steve Nicklaus' son, Jake, who drowned Tuesday night.

Nicklaus sat before a small

gathering Monday morning at The Loxahatchee Club, not as the steely-eyed winner of 18 major championships, but as a teary-eyed grandfather who had lost one of his 17 grandchildren.

He declined to cancel the appearance, saying it was the right thing to do.

"Life has got to move on. Life is for the living," Nicklaus said. "It hurts, but you go on. You make commitments, and you've got to do them."

But he remains so shaken that he left a statement on each chair that expressed his grief and appreciation about the love and support, hopeful it would limit the questions during a one-hour interview.

His voice cracked only once,

when he mentioned that Steve's wife, Krista, is 3½ months pregnant and probably will have the baby shortly after the British Open.

"Obviously, that little baby she has inside her is very important," Nicklaus said.

Nicklaus is perhaps the greatest champion golf has known, winning a record 18 majors over 25 seasons. But he has always taken more pride in his family.

There are the famous stories of

how he fainted when his wife, Barbara, gave birth to each of their five children. There was that memorable photo of him scooping up 4-year-old Gary after a round in the 1973 PGA Championship. Gary Nicklaus later played two years on the PGA Tour

And when Nicklaus had his left hip replaced in 1999 — causing him to miss the Masters for the first time — he said it was to improve his quality of life so he could remain active with his grandchildren, not to help him play another major.

"As you can imagine, the last few days have been an overwhelmingly difficult and trying time for my entire family," like laus said in his statement. "The loss of our precious, 17-month-old grandson Jake was devastating, and it is a loss that is impossible to put into words."

Nicklaus had an easier time talking about his future in golf.

"I have absolutely zero plans as it relates to the game of golf," he said.If he doesn't play at Augusta, it would be only the third time since he first played in 1959. After the hip replacement operation in 1999, he missed 2002 because of lingering back problems.

Nicklaus has not played the British Open since 2000 at St. An-

of drews.

### **SCOREBOARD**

#### **AFN TV & Radio**

#### Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Pro basketball: Orlando at Cleveland (did).
AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.-Pro basketball:
Houston at Seattle (did).
AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.-Outdoors: Wal-Mart
FLW Tour (did).

AFN-Sports, 6:30 p.m.-Outdoors: Babe Winkelman's Good Fishing (dld). AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-College basketball: Big Fast tournment came

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.-College basketball: Conference USA tournament game (jip).

#### Thursday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.-College basketball: lortheast Conference championship game. AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-College basketball: Big

APN-Sports, 1 a.m.-College baskettonin. Englast fournament game.

APN-Radio, 2 a.m.-Pro basketball: New Jersey at New Orleans.

AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.-College basketball: Big Sky Conference championship game.

AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m.-College basketball:

Big East tournament game.

ARN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Motorcycle racing: FIM Speedway GP (Sweden and Slovenia) (did).

ARN-Sports, noon-Pro basketball: Atlanta at Boston (did).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-College basketball: Big All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicates delayed listing. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.netfor more information.

#### Baseball

#### Spring training glance AMERICAN LEAGUE

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Monday's games
Washington 6, Detroit 5
Minnesota 5, Tampa Bay 1
Minnesota 5, Tampa Bay 1
Minnesota 6, Tampa Bay 1
Mindelpha 9, Houston 1
Toronto 12, Cleveland (ss.) 9
St. Louis 6, L. A. Dodgers (ss.) 1
Cincinnat (ss.) 10, Pittsburgh (ss.) 2
Atlanta 5, NY, Mets 0
Cleveland (ss.) 3, New Yor Vankees (ss.) 1
Cleveland (ss.) 3, New Yor Vankees (ss.) 1
Cleveland (ss.) 3, New Yor Sankes 4
Cleveland (ss.) 5, New Yor Sankes (ss.) 1
Cleveland (ss.) 6, New Yor Sankes (ss.) 1
Cleveland (ss.) 7
Cleveland (

Chicago Cubs 9, Texas 4
Milwaukee 14, Seattle 8
San Diego 4, LA, Angels 0
San Diego 4, LA, Angels 0
Colorado (sa) 8, Karisas City 7
San Francisco 6, Chicago White Sox 5
New York Yardees (sa) 9, Boston 2
Lett. Durger 50, 14, Florida (sa) 2
Lett. Durger 51, 14, Florida (sa) 2
Lett. Durger 51, 14, Florida (sa) 2
Lett. Durger 52, 14, Florida (sa) 5
Colorado (sa) 9, Arizona (sa) 6
Tuesday's games
N,Y, Yankees vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, 18

ia. Tampa Bay vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla. Cleveland vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla

Florida vs. L.A. Dodgers at Vero Beach, Fla. Minnesota (ss) vs. Boston at Fort Myers, la. Cincinnati vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton,

Washington vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla. Philadelphia vs. Toronto (ss) at Dunedin,

Fla. Toronto (ss) vs. Minnesota (ss) at Fort

Myers, Fla.
Baltimore vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.
Texas vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale.

San Diego vs. Milwaukee (ss) at Phoenix Oakland (ss) vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz. Chicago White Sox vs. Colorado at Tucson,

Ariz.
Milwaukee (ss) vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.
Qakland (ss) vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at
Mesa, Ariz.
Chicago Cubs (ss) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.
Seattle (ss) vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz.

Boston vs. Florida at Jupiter Flame, Ariz. Wednesday's games
Boston vs. Florida at Jupiter Fla.
Ballimore vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.
Toronto vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
N.Y. Yankees vs. Cleveland at Winter
Haven, Fla.

Detroit (ss) vs. Washington at Viera, Fla. L.A. Dodgers vs. Tampa Bay at St. Peters burg, Fla. Cincinnati(ss) vs. F.

ati (ss) vs. Detroit (ss) at Lakeland. Cincinnati (ss) vs. Philadelphia at Clearwa-ter, Fla. St. Louis vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie,

ria. Texas vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz. Colorado vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix San Francisco vs. Oakland at Phoenix Seattle vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz. L.A. Angels (ss) vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz.
Chicago White Sox vs. San Diego (ss) at Denria Ariz.

San Diego (ss) vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at empe. Ariz. Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla. Thursday's games Thursday's games
Detroit vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota, Fla.

Pittsburgh vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla. L.A. Dodgers vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla. Houston vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla. N.Y. Mets vs. Raltimore at Fort Lauderdale.

la. Florida vs. Washington (ss) at Viera, Fla. Philadelphia vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers.

la. Cleveland (ss) vs. Tampa Bay at St. Peters ourg. Fla.

burg, Fla. Washington (ss) vs. Cleveland (ss) at Winter Haven, Fla. San Diego vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz. Chicago Cubs vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz. Oakland vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz. Kansas City vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix Chicago White Sox vs. Texas at Surprise,

riz.
San Francisco vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz.
Toronto vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa. Fia.

#### College basketball

#### Men's Top 25 fared

Monday
1. Illinois (291) Idid net play, Next: vs.
North Carolina (28-3) did net play, Next: vs.
North Carolina (28-3) did net play, Next:
vs. Maryland or Clemson, Friday.
3. Wake Forest (26-4) did not play, Next:
vs. North Carolina State or Florida State, Friday.

day.

4. Kentucky (23-4) did not play. Next: vs. Ar-kansas or Tennessee, Friday.

5. Duke (22-5) did not play. Next: vs. Miami or Virginia, Friday. or Virginia, Friday.

6. Louisville (26-4) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Christian or Marquette, Thursday.

7. Boston College (24-3) did not play. Next: vs. West Virginia or Providence, Thursday.

8. Arizona (25-5) did not play. Next: vs. California, Thursday.

18. Friday. L-2-2 un nor pay, Next vs. 19. Villanova (21-6) did not play. Next vs. No. 22 Pittsburgh. Thursday of play, Next vs. South Carolina of Mississipp. Flay, Next vs. 21. Cincinnati (24-6) did not play. Next vs. 21. Cincinnati (24-6) did not play. Next vs. 22. Pittsburgh (27-7) did not play. Next vs. No. 19 Villanova. Thursday. 22. Wisconsia (207) did not play. Next vs. 24. Nevada (24-5) did not play. Next vs. 26. Nevada (24-5) did not play. Next vs. 27. Nevada (24-5) did not play. Next vs. 28. Nevada (24-5) did not play. Next vs. 29. Nevada (24-5) did not play. 29. Nevada (24-5) did not play.

25. Charlotte (21-6) did not play. Next: vs. lemphis or Saint Louis, Thursday.

Monday's men's scores

TOURNAMENTS
Colonial Athletic Association
Championship
Old Dominion 73, Va. Commonwealth 66,
OT

TANK McNamara

Metro Atlantic Athletic Confere Championship Niagara 81, Rider 59 Mid-America an Confere

First Round Akron 78, E. Michigan 65 Bowling Green 75, Ball St. 73 Buffalo 73, N. Illinois 66 Kent St. 91, Cent. Michigan 60 Ohio 72, Marshall 66 Mid-Continent Confere

Nem 3.1-91, Lefth, Michigan to Oliho 72, Mid-Continent Conference Mid-Continent Conference Semifinals Oakland, Mich. 36, Chicago St. 53 Oral Roberts 80, Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 69 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Florida A&M 80, Howard 56 Morgan St. 77, Mic-Eastern Shore 56 Missouri Valley Conference Championship Creighton 75, SW Missouri St. 57 Soone-Championship Soone-Championship

Sooner Athletic Confere Championship Oklahoma Baptist 82, Oklahoma Sun Belt Conference Semifinals oma City 71

Denver 77. W. Kentucky 6 Louisiana-Lafayette 80, Fla. International

West Coast Conference Championship Gonzaga 80, Saint Mary's, Calif. 67

#### Women's Top 25 fared

Monday
1. Stanford (29-2) beat Arizona State 56-42. Next: TBA. 2. LSU (29-2) did not play. Next: TBA. 3. Tennessee (25-4) did not play. Next:

2.1.53 (25-2) did not play. Next: TBA.
3. Temessee (25-4) did not play. Next: A. North Carolina (27-3) beat No. 5 Duke
4. North Carolina (27-3) beat No. 5 Duke
4. North Carolina (27-3) beat No. 10 No.
4. North Carolina (26-5) Next: TBA.
6. Baylor (24-3) did not play. Next: YBA.
7. Michigan State (25-3) beat No. 12 Minness
6. Ohlo State (28-4) did not play. Next: TBA.
9. Rutpers (25-5) beat Villianova (45-5).
10. Norte Dame (26-5) loot to No. 11 Connections (35-4) Reprint (36-5) No. 11 Connections (32-7) No. 11 No

day.

14. Texas Tech (21-6) did not play. Next vs. Colorado or No. 18 Iowa State, Wednes

vs. Colorado or No. 16 lowa state, Wednes-day. 15. Temple (27-3) beat George Washington 70-62. Next: TBA. 16. DePaul (25-4) did not play. Next: vs. TBA.

IA. 17. Kansas State (21-6) did not play. Next: . Oklahoma State or Nebraska, Wednesvs. Oklahoma State or Nebraska, Wednes-day. 18. Iowa State (22-5) did not play. Next: vs.

Colorado, Tuesday.

19. Vanderbilt (22-6) did not play. Next: TBA.

DA. 20. North Carolina State (21-6) did not lay. Next: TBA. 21. Georgia (22-8) did not play. Next: TBA. 22. Penn State (19-10) did not play. Next:

TBA. 23. Boston College (19-9) did not play. Next: TBA. 24. Wisconsin-Green Bay (27-3) beat Wright State 58-48. Next: TBA. 25. TCU (23-9) did not play. Next: TBA.

#### Monday's women's scores

Columbia, Mo. 105, McKendree 68
TOURNAMENTS
Atlantic 10 Conference
Championship
Temple 70, George Washington 62
Atlantic Coast Conference
Championship

Championsl North Carolina 88, Duke 67

Big East Conference Semifinals nnecticut 67, Notre Dame 54

Rutgers 64, Villanova 59 Big Ten Conferer Michigan St. 55, Minnesota 49
Michigan St. 55, Minnesota 49
Michigan St. 58, Minnesota 49
Championship
Wis.-Green Bay 58, Wright St. 48
Mid-Continent Conference

Oral Roberts 43, W. Illinois 37 UMKC 56, Oakland, Mich. 53

UMKC 56, Oakland, Mich. 53

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
First Round
Florida A&M 81, Morgan St. 64
S. Carolina St. 70, N. Carolina A&T 60
Pac-10 Conference
Championship
Stanford 56, Arizona St. 42
Southland Conference

First Round
Louislana-Morrey T., Nicholls St. 68
McNeese St. 78, Texas St. 71, OT
Northwestern St. 51, Texas-San Antonio 48
Texas-Arlington 75, Stephen F. Austin 45
Sun Belt Conference
Seminals
Louislana-Lafayette 61, Arkansas St. 49

### Middle Tennessee 65, W. Kentucky 61 TransSouth Tournament Championship Freed-Hardeman 88, Union, Tenn. 82

#### College baseball Collegiate Baseball Top 25

## TUCSON, Ariz. — The top 25 teams in the 2005 Collegiate Baseball poll with records through March 6, points and previous rank ing voting by coaches, sports writers and sports information directors:

1 Toyas . Texas . Tulane . Florida St. . South Carolina . Cal. St. Fullerton . Louisiana St. 13-1 19-1 12-1 Rice Georgia Tech. Wichita St. 15 10. Arkansas 11. North Carolina 12. Georgia 12. Georgia 13. Florida 14. Miami, Fla. 15. Stanford 16. Arizona 17. Texas A&M 18. Mississippi St. 19. Louislana-Laf. 20. Vanderbilt 10 11 12 14 17 19 21. Mississippi 22. Southern California 23. Nebraska 24. Michigan 25. Coastal Carolina 440 438 23

#### Baseball America Top 25

DURHAM, N.C. — The top 25 teams in the Baseball America poll with records through March 6 and previous ranking (voting by the staff of Baseball America):

Texas Cal State Fullerton South Carolina 5. Louisiana State 6. Florida 13 8. Vanderbilt 9. Texas A&M 15 12 11 10. Rice 11. Stanford 12. Arizona 13. Georgia 14. North Carolina 12-3 11-7 12-5 7-3 9-3 10 7 6 17 16 18 . Georgia Tech . Mississippi . Florida State 9-3 9-3 19-1 12-1 8-6 19 18. Arkansas 19. Baylor 20. Coll. of Charleston 21. Louisiana-Lafayette 22. Texas Tech 20 21 22 24 25 23 10-2 14-1 14-2 11-2 10-3 7-4 23. Oregon State 24. Texas Christian 25. Southern Califo

### Monday's scores

EAST C.W. Post 4, Merrimack 2 Rutgers-Camden 10, Albright SOUTH Boston College 9, Temple 4 Bowling Green 13, Valparaisc Cent. Michigan 2, Sacred Hea Connecticut 17, Holy Cross 5 Davidson 9, Yale 8

Contenting of Sector Pear 1
Contenting of Sector Pear 1
Contenting of Sector Pear 1
Flat International 14, Wagare 2
Flat International 14, Wagare 3
Flat International 14, Wagare 3
Flat International 14, Wagare 1
Georgetown, Va. J. Audish Pear, cod., sched.
conflict
Conflic

Walsh 2, Webber 1 Washington & Lee 14, Villa Julie 0 WPI 9, N.J. City 7

MIDWEST ethel, Minn. 11-14, Minot St Missouri 7, S. Dakota St. 2

#### YOU HAVE TO BUY INTO IF YOUR TEAM WINE HOW DO I ENTER 15 YOU HAVE TO BUY INTO THE PRE-POOL POOL FOR \$1. IF YOUR TEAM IS SELECTED, THEN YOU HAVE TO PAY \$5 TO ENTER THE BRACKETS. IF YOUR TEAM WING, YOU HAVE TO PAY \$5 TO BUY INTO THE NEXTROUND BRACKET, IF YOUR TEAM WING THAT ROUND, IT'S \$15 TO-THE NCAA FINAL-FOUR EVEN SASKETBALL OFFICE POOL IF THE TEAMS AREN'T EVEN ANNOUNCED YET? LEGALS وَو ·---0 SINCE THE CEO MOVED HEADQUARTERS FOR THE SHELL CORPORATION TO THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, YES. 11/1

SOUTHWEST Cent. Oklahoma 5-5, Angelo St. 4-1 Creighton 3, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 2, 11 innings E. Texas Baptist 12-1, Rockford 9-5 Hardin-Simmons 8, North Park Oklahoma Baptist 6, Peru St. 0 Texas-Dallas 8, Friends 3 Okianoma Baptist 6, Peru St. 0 Texas-Dallas 8, Friends 3 Texas Wesleyan 12-4, Mary Hardin-Baylor

FAR WEST Florida St. 11, Hawaii-Hilo 5 St. Mary's, Cal. 7, San Diego 6 San Jose St. 6, Santa Clara 4 TOURNAMENTS Pepsi-Johnny Quik Classic Dallas Baptist 5, Gonzaga 4 Penn St. 6, Monmouth, N.J. 3

San Francisco 7, Penn Fresno St. 5, S. Utah 3 ck Cla Round Rock Texas State 10, Notre Da

#### College hockey

#### Division I poll

MINNEAPOLIS – Top teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll, compiled by U.S. College Hockey Online, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through March 6, points, and previous ranking:

1. Colorado College (16)

26-7-3-562

21-73-562

2. Denver (4) 3. Cornell (16) 20- 7-3 24- 9-2 22- 4-3 529 512 4. Michigan (4) 5. Boston Colle 26- 7-3 21- 6-7 6. Minnesota 7. Ohio State 24-12-1 24- 8-4 357 8. Wisconsin 9. Boston University 10. New Hampshire 11. Harvard 22- 9-5 18- 8-3 266 225 12. Maine 12. Northern Michigar 18-11-7 20- 9-7 North Dakota
 Mass.-Lowell 18-13-5 20-10-4 68 67 NR 13 Others Receiving Votes: Dartmoutl gate 28, Vermont 9, Minnesota-Dulu nesota State 1, Nebraska-Omaha 1

#### Deals

#### Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Assigned RHP
Seth Greisinger, RHP Chad Durbin, RHP Luis
Pineda, RHP Josh Karp, LHP Micah Bowle,
LHP Bill Bray, C Drew McMillian, INF Rick
son and INF-OF Phil Hatt. to their minor
league camp.

league camp.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

MIAMI HEAT—Placed C Wang Zhi-Zhi on
the injured list. Activated G Steve Smith
from the injured list.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Signed G Anthony
coldwire. Placed C Daniel Santiago on the in-

FOOTBALL National Football League

National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Signed DE Chike
keafor to a five-year contract. Re-signed
RB Troy Hambrick to a two-year contract.
ATLANTA FALCONS—Signed S Rich Coady
and PK Todd Peterson. Re-signed KR-PR

BALTIMORE RAVENS—Agreed to terms with CB Samari Rolle on a six-year contract. CHICAGO BEARS—Signed OT Fred Miller to CHICAGO BEARS—Signed Of Fred Miller to five-year contract.

CINCINNATI BENGALS—Signed RB Rudi ohnson to a one-year contract.

DETROIT LIONS—Signed S Kenoy Kennedy and TE Marcus Pollard.

MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed DE Kevin Carter o a five-year contract. Released WR David

Boston.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Re-signed FB Patrick Pass. Named Pete Mangurian tight

ends coach.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Signed S Dwight smith to a five-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Re-signed CB Willewilliams to a two-year contract. PITSBURGN STELLES - Re-signed CB Wille Williams to a two-year contract
SAN DIEGO CHARGES - Signed A.J. Smith,
SAN DIEGO CHARGES - Signed A.J. Smith,
CHARGES - Signed A.J. Smith,
WASHINGTON REDSKINS - Agreed to terms
WIR BA Mides Selven obtal League
MONTREAL - ALOUETTES - Signed DT - Phil
Bloson, DB Serge Sejun; RB ROBET Edwards
and LB-De Jimmy McClare

ALOUETTES - Signed DT - Phil
Bloson, DB Serge Sejun; RB ROBET Edwards
and LB-De Jimmy McClare

Bloson, DB Serge - Signer RB ROBET Edwards
ALOUETTES - Signed DT - Phil
Bloson, DB Serge - Signer, RB ROBET Edwards
ALOUETTES - Signed DT - Phil
Bloson, DB Serge - Signer, RB ROBET Edwards
ALOUETTES - Signed DT - Phil
Bloson, DB Serge - Signer, RB ROBET Edwards
ALOUETTES - Signer BLOSE

MINISTRUMENT - SIGNER

MINISTRUMENT - SIG

scout. INNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS—Named John

WINNIPEG BLUE BUMBERS TRANSPORTER

Kropke defensive line coach.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES—Re-signed F

Dwayne De Rosario. COLLEGE

COLLEGE RUTGERS—Named Cary Godette defensive ine\_coach\_and\_Robert\_Jackson\_running

SAN JOSE STATE—Announced the resigna-tion of Phil Johnson men's baskethall coach, effective at the end of the season.

SANTA CLARA—Extended the contract of Dick Davey, men's basketball coach, hrough the 2005-06 season. nrough the 2005-06 season.

SOUTHERN ARKANSAS—Announced the esignation of Brian Daugherty, men's basetball coach.

UC RIVERSIDE—Fired John Masi, men's bas-

ketball coach.

WAKE FOREST—Suspended sophomore
men's basketball G Chris Paul one game for
hitting North Carolina State's Julius Hodge
in the groin during a March 6 game.

WILLIAM PENN—Named Ålan Stewart
men's opif coach.

## Giambi helps Yankees bop Sox

#### Hudson makes scoreless debut with Braves

The Associated Press

Jason Giambi quieted the caustic Red Sox crowd with his first homer of spring training. Tim Hudson and



Mariano Rivera silenced their opponents with their dominant pitches.

With fans chanting "Steroids! Steroids! Steroids!", Giambi hit a solo shot in the fifth inning of the New York Yankees' 9-2 victory over Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.

The public face of baseball's steroids controversy was booed before each of his five at-bats — he finished 2-for-5 and is 3-for-12 this spring.

Giambi took it all in stride. He gave a mass interview, got a hug from Kevin Millar, took batting practice and signed autographs for 25 minutes.

Giambi, one of only a handful of Yankees regulars who made the 2-hour bus ride for the split-squad game, was prepared to face Red Sox Nation. Giambi said he tuned out the taunts.

"Tonight was a good night for him," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "Tm sure he feels good about it. I know we were pleased because he didn't let the emotion of where we were and who we were playing against interfere with what he was working on."

At Tampa Bay, Fla., Rivera sparkled in his first spring appearance for the Yankees, working one perfect inning in a 3-1 split-squad loss to the Cleveland Indians.

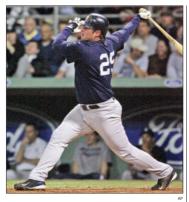
"He didn't even break a sweat," Torre said before heading to Fort Myers. Rivera threw 10 pitches, seven

for strikes, and retired the side on a grounder to short and two fly balls to right.

The right-hander changed his offseason program in hopes of rejuvenating himself after the Yankees' collapse against Boston in the American League Championship Series. He feels like he accomplished that objective.

"Mentally and physically I was tired," Rivera said, explaining the decision to change his routine. "I worked out, but I didn't throw. It's not normal for me. I just felt like I needed it, so I did." Making his debut with the

Making his debut with the Braves, Hudson worked two scoreless innings in a 5-0 victory over the New York Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla. He threw 21 of 29 pitch-



Amid derisive chants, Jason Giambi (above) had a solo homer and two hits in the Yankees' 9-2 split-squad victory over the Red Sox on Monday.

es for strikes and got four groundouts, showing off the sharp stuff that made him a huge winner with Oakland the past six years.

"It was good to finally get it out of the way," Hudson said. "I was just mainly trying to locate my fastball, stay down in the zone."

The Braves sent three players to the Athletics in a trade for Hudson last December, and he agreed to a \$47 million, four-year contract extension last Tuesday. Atlanta's new closer Dan Kolb

followed with a perfect inning.
Kolb was acquired in an offsea-

son trade with Milwaukee, allowing the Braves to shift John Smoltz back into the rotation. "The first day is a little rough,

"The first day is a little rough, the adrenaline," Kolb said. "Especially when you get traded and you're replacing pretty much a legend in Atlanta. I probably put a little too much pressure on myself."

In other games:

Blue Jays 12, Indians (ss) 9: At Winter Haven, Fla., C.C. Sabathia likely won't start the Indians' season opener after an MRI showed the left-handers trained a muscle in his right side. Sabathia has been told not to throw for a week.

Kavin Millurod, waking his

been told not to throw for a week. Kevin Millwood, making his first start for Cleveland, gave up five runs and seven hits in one inning. Miguel Batista pitched two

hitless innings for the Blue Jays. Nationals 6, Tigers 5: At Lake-



Tim Hudson pitched two scorless innings, throwing 21 of 29 pitches for strikes, in Atlanta's 5-0 victory Monday over the Mets.

land, Fla., Dean Palmer, attempting a comeback after retiring last year because of neck and shoulder injuries, hit a two-run homer off Sun, woo Kim for Detroit

off Sun-woo Kim for Detroit.

Washington's Tony Armas Jr.
allowed three runs on five hits
and two walks while striking out
two over three innings.

Athletics 5, Diamondbacks (ss) 0: At Phoenix, Rich Harden pitched three scoreless innings and struck out three for Oakland. Eric Byrnes hit a bases-loaded double off Russ Ortiz in the first.

Cubs 9, Rangers 4: At Surprise, Ariz., Greg Maddux gave up three hits and allowed two unearned runs in two innings in his spring debut.

Alfonso Soriano, who missed the final two weeks of 2004 with a torn left hamstring, was limping in the locker room after playing six innings and going 0-for-3 with two strikeouts. He played second base for the first time this spring.

Padres 4, Angels 0: At Tempe, Ariz., Adam Eaton was the latest San Diego starter to impress, throwing three scoreless innings and allowing three hits and walking one.

Brian Giles went 3-for-3, and Ramon Hernandez and Sean Burroughs had two hits each for the Padres.

Angels starter Jarrod Washburn pitched two shutout innings.

Cardinals 6, Dodgers 1: At Jupiter, Fla., Albert Pujols hit two home runs and a hard double for the Cardinals. In eight at-bats this spring, Pujols has three homers and two doubles.

Jeff Weaver threw the home run pitches and allowed four runs and six hits in three innings.

Phillies 9, Astros 8: At Clearwater, Fla., Billy Wagner allowed two hits during a scoreless eighth inning against his former team. Pat Burrell hit a two-run homer, and Placido Polanco and Jimmy Rollins also homered for Philadelphia.

Dodgers (ss) 4, Marlins (ss) 2: At Jupiter, Fla, Carlos Delgado was scratched from his debut with Florida because of tendinitis in the left elbow. Marlins right-hander Josh Beckett struck out seven over four scoreless innings.

## Remodeled Braves look to Smoltz for home improvement

BY BILL MADDEN
New York Daily News

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — For the past two days, the New York Mets have had a sneak preview of John Schuerholz's latest reinvention of the Atlanta Braves. And for starters, they found it reminis-

cent of all the previous teams. You talk Braves and inevitably you're talking superior starting pitching, the driving force behind those unprecedented 13 straight first-place finishes under the Schuerholz-Bobby Cox management team — be it John Smoltz, Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, Kevin Millwood or Tim Hudson doing the driving.

Or, as the key element of this year's makeover, John Smoltz

On Monday it was Hudson, the celebrated offseason acquisition from the Oakland A's, making his Braves debut, an uneventful

two-inning, two-hit, 29-pitch effort that he said "wasn't at all what they're going to see during the regular season."

We knew that, of course. Down here, No. 1 starters of Hudson's status usually don't get serious with their repertoire and approach until their fourth or fifth spring start.

On the other hand, Smoltz, who threw two shutout innings against the Mets on Sunday and begged Cox to no avail for a third, is approaching each

start like a man in

a hurry to prove himself worthy of top-of-the-rotation status. It is understandable being that Smoltz has not known what it is to start a ballgame since June 9, 2001, or pitch 200 innings in a season, as per the expectations of a No. 1 starter, since 1997. The converted team closer since late-season '01, Smoltz, approaching 38, is attempting a "reverse"

of extraordinary preportions.
"I'll be hones," said Cox, "I
can't think of anyone who's ever
gone from starter to closer and
back to starter again — at least
anyone of John's caliber. I know
Hoyt Wilhelm did it back in the
fols, but he was a knuckleballer
and it was an easy transition. But
the fact was we lost three of our
starters (Russ Ortiz, Jaret Wright
and Paul Byrd) over the winter
and we needed someone to replace them. Who better than

Well, in his prime, probably nobody. But as a starter, that was probably eight years ago and, in their exuberance of having him back in their rotation, no one around the Braves dares mention

#### Commentary

it was a career-threatening elbow injury that prompted Smoltz to take on the less-taxing role in the bullpen. "It's fumy" said Glavine who

made his spring debut as well Monday against his old team, "everyone's getting all gung ho about Smoltzie being back in the rotation, as if it's automatic he'll pitch 250 innings and win 20 games. I'm not saying he isn't capable, but it's certainly not that easy."

According to Cox, Smoltz underwent the most comprehensive conditioning program of his career this offseason and reported to camp the strongest he's ever been. Certainly no one has ever questioned Smolt's determination, confidence or competitive fire. "It's all about the person and

how he takes care
of himself," said
Hudson. "Everybody knows what
kind of mental
makeup John has.
He's just like
Roger Clemens

and Randy Johnson. They're two of the greatest pitchers in baseball and two of the oldest. What does that say? I don't see why John can't do it."

Even Glavine concedes that if his old stablemate is able to make the transition and be even a solid No. 2 to Hudson's No. 1, the Braves once again will be a formidable foe

consecutive division title.

a formulation in the NL East.

"If he's back,"
said Glavine, "they have a chance to really be something."

John Smoltz's transition from

closer to starter will be a key

factor in whether the Braves

will be celebrating a 14th

If he's back, echoed Hudson, "this is the best rotation (along with Mike Hampton, John Thomson and Horacio Ramirez, who's coming back from offseason arthroscopic shoulder surgery) I've ever been a part of."

Considering the rotation he just left in Oakland included Barry Zito, Mark Mulder and Rich Harden, that's saying something. Cox feels the same way, but tempers his enthusiasm with realism.

"We have no idea if John can pitch 200 innings," said the Braves manager. "It's easy to bet against, although if you do, you have to know Smoltzie's a pretty special guy. The way I see it, if he's gonna blow his arm out, what difference does it make if it's in the pen or as a starter?"

A valid point — which only emphasizes just how high the stakes are for the Braves in this gamble they've chosen to take with their erstwhile ace.

## Cards, Lions go shopping

#### Arizona adds two linemen. QB Warner: Detroit picks up S Kennedy, TE Pollard

Arizona Cardinals coach Dennis Green dipped into the free-agent market for the third time in five days, signing defensive end Chike Okeafor to go with quarterback Kurt Warner and of-

fensive tackle Oliver Ross. "I've been a believer

since the day I got here that Arizona has all the ingredients to attract the top NFL free agents, and our three signees are a great indication of that," said Green, in his

second year with Arizona. Okeafor provides a strong upgrade for Arizona. He had a career-high 81/2 sacks for Seattle last season after recording eight the previous season. He had two sacks and four tackles in the Seahawks' 27-20 loss to St. Louis in an NFC wild-card game.

Okeafor who also visited Den ver, said during his visit to Arizoheadquarters on Saturday that it was obvious Green is serious about shaking the Cardinals doormat image.

"From playing against them and watching on film, there is some heart there," he said.

The Cardinals also re-signed running back Troy Hambrick to a two-year contract.

Detroit signed two players on Monday, landing hard-hitting safety Kenoy Kennedy and tight end Marcus Pollard.

Kennedy, who spent his entire five-year career with Denver, was about to board a flight to Miami to continue his free-agent tour, but had second thoughts and returned to the Lions' practice facility to sign a contract while the team was introducing Pollard

"They were calling my name and saving that I had to get on the plane or I was going to get left behind," Kennedy said. "I told them to go ahead and leave me. I decided I wanted to be a Lion

Kennedy was suspended for one game in 2002 for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Miami's Chris Chambers, and has been fined for similar plays at least three other times.

"I think I bring a presence," he said. "Receivers are looking for me, and they might develop alligator arms

Kennedy has four career interceptions

"I think we got better today, and Kenoy is a big part of that, Lions coach Steve Mariucci said. Pollard caught six of Peyton Manning's record 49 TD passes

last season with Indianapolis. "Until a couple weeks ago, we didn't even expect that Marcus would be available, so we feel very good about adding him to the team president Matt Millen said. "He brings experience, an understanding of how to win, and some great hands,

Pollard spent 10 seasons with Indianapolis. Last season, he caught 29 passes for 309 yards and six touchdowns. He missed three games with leg injuries.

Running back Rudi Johnson signed a one-year contract to stay with the Cincinnati Bengals. Johnson who set a team mark last season with 1,454 yards rushing, will get \$6.3 million.

He became a free agent March 2. but the Bengals designated him their franchise player, meaning they had to pay him the average of the top five salaries at the position. Johnson is free to negotiate a long-term contract with the team. and says he wants to do that. He



Detroit Lions coach Steve Mariucci, left, and team president Matt Millen, right, flank new signee Kenov Kennedy, a hard-hitting safety who has spent his five-year NFL career with the Denver Broncos.

was naid \$1.8 million in 2004 The deal allows the Bengals to

keep Johnson while they see whether Chris Perry, their top draft choice last year, will develon. Perry was sidelined by injuries for much of his rookie season.

The Dolphins signed two-time Pro Bowl player Kevin Carter to a five-year deal. A 10-year NFL veteran. Carter spent the past four seasons with Tennessee, but was released by the Titans in a sal-

arv,can move The 6-foot-5, 290-pound Carter ever has missed a game, totaling 598 tackles, 86 sacks, nine fumble recoveries and 16 forced fumbles He earned Pro Bowl trips in 1999 and 2002, and a Super Bowl ring with the St. Louis Rams in 2000.

The Dolphins also cut wide receiver David Boston, who failed a physical. Boston signed last year, but missed the season with a knee injury. In December, he was suspended by the NFL for four games for testing positive for steroids. Boston has denied using steroids. Cornerback Samari Rolle

agreed to a six-year contract with the Baltimore Ravens. Rolle was a 2000 Pro Bowl selection with the Tennessee Titans.

Like new Ravens receiver Derrick Mason and Carter, Rolle was a salary-cap casualty in Tennes-

In 2000, Rolle intercepted seven passes as the Titans went 13-3. He was limited to a career-low 12 games last season because of an injured left knee that required arthroscopic surgery

The Bears signed another Tennessee cap cut, right tackle Fred Miller The 32-year-old veteran who hasn't missed a start since

1998, agreed to a five-year deal. The 6-foot-7, 320-pound Miller was cut by the Titans last month so he wouldn't count \$9 32 million against this year's salary cap. Fi-

nancial terms of his deal with the Bears weren't disclosed The Patriots re-signed fullback Patrick Pass, an unrestricted free

The Browns continued to rebuild their offensive line Tuesday, agreeing to terms on a two-year contract with former Tampa Bay guard Cosey Coleman.

Coleman, a 26-year-old four-year starter with the Buccaneers, is the second free agent guard signed by the Browns. Last week, the Browns signed former New England guard Joe Andruzzi

to a four-year \$9 million deal. Cornerback Willie Williams re-signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers for two years. The unrestricted free agent started the final 10 regular-season games and both playoff contests after Chad

Scott injured his knee Oct. 17. The Redskins agreed to terms with Mike Sellers, a special teams standout who made 29 tackles in kickoff and punt coverage last season. He also is the backup to starting H-back Chris Cooley

The Falcons signed safety Rich Coady, another low-key acquisition for the team that reached the NFC title game last season.

Kicker Jay Feely, replaced by Todd Peterson after four years with the Falcons, signed with the

### Chargers' GM gets contract extension

By BERNIE WILSON The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO - General

manager A.J. Smith was given a three-year contract exten-sion through 2009 on Monday, his reward for helping transform the San Diego Chargers from the NFL's doormat to a playoff team in one season. Smith originally signed a

four-year deal in April 2003, when he was promoted to GM 11 days after his longtime friend and colleague, John But-

ler, died of cancer. "A.J. took over under diffi-

cult circumstances and has helped build the roster into a playoff competitor," said team president Dean Spanos, who in January gave coach Marty Schottenheimer a two-year contract extension through 2007.

"I do believe we've got it going in the right direction," Smith said. "We're very Smith said. "We're very pleased with last year. We chased the championship but fell short. Hopefully we'll keep banging away at this thing and continue to be in the postseason. Maybe there will be a special year built in there where we win a world championship."

San Diego was an NFL-worst 4-12 in 2003, but won the AFC West with a 12-4 record last season to reach the playoffs for the first time in nine seasons. They lost 20-17 in overtime to the New York Jets in a home wild-card game

Smith has rebuilt the Charge ers with two successful drafts a number of mostly low-key acquisitions through free agency and trades.

"The net result is, we've had a major change in personnel to the point where we have a team of players that all are of good character and are team players," Spanos said. "If anybody's proven that chasing high-priced free agents doesn't work, we've proved it in the past

Last March, Smith rid San Diego's roster of several nonproductive but high-priced players who were signed when Butler was GM, including enigmatic wide receiver David Bos ton and defensive end Marcel-

He then deftly turned a snub by Eli Manning into a windfall. Manning sent word through his father, Archie, that he didn't want the Chargers to draft him No. 1 overall. They

did anyway, then traded Man-ning to the New York Giants for Philip Rivers and three draft picks, including the Giants' No. 1 this April. Smith signed tight end Anto-

nio Gates as a free agent rook ie in 2003 and watched him blossom into an All-Pro last season. He acquired wide re ceiver Keenan McCardell from Tampa Bay at the trading deadline.

## NHL labor talks planned for this week

NEW YORK - Now the NHL and the play ers' association will start trying to save next season



Less than three weeks after commissioner Gary Bettman canceled 2004-05 NHL season, he invited union executive director Bob Goodenow back to

the bargaining table for talks this week. Countless meetings and proposals weren't enough to end the lockout that began in Sep tember, so Bettman wants to get talks going as soon as possible before next season is put in ieonardy, too.

opardy, 100. He contacted Goodenow late last week to request a meeting, and the players' association agreed to get together. NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Monday.

The date, time and location of the next

It will be the first bargaining session since Feb. 19, when the sides met in a desperate attempt to save the season three days after Bettman canceled it. But even the presence of Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux wasn't enough to get owners and players to reach an agreement

Bettman and Goodenow will take part in this week's meeting, a source close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, after both leaders sat out the last session

Last week, the NHL board of governors met in New York on the same day more than 150 nlavers got an undate from union leadership in Toronto

Bettman said the board discussed many ways to get next season started on time in Oc tober, and didn't rule out the use of replacement players. He said that wasn't a choice he wanted to make, but added the league is committed to having a season that isn't delayed When players emerged from their meeting with union leadership on March 1, they were more inclined to let time pass before re-engaging in talks. Players have lost a season's salary and aren't due to be paid again until October.

#### Proposed Gatti-Mayweather bout canceled GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - A proposed

fight between WBC super lightweight champion Arturo Gatti and undefeated challenger

Floyd Mayweather Jr. has been scratched Donald Tremblay, a spokesman for Gatti's promoter, Main Events Inc., said Mayweather missed a Friday deadline to sign a contract

agreeing to fight Gatti on June 11.

Main Events will find another boxer to face Gatti (39-6, 29 knockouts) on that date, Tremblay said.

Mayweather (33-0, 22 knockouts) and his promoter, Top Rank Inc., apparently couldn't agree on how much money he would be guaranteed for the fight. Tremblay said.

just tape it up a little tighter and go," Davis said. "With Grant, we're just being cautious. You don't want him favoring it, which

could throw him out of balance

The Kings also will be short-handed Tuesday night. Sacramento could be down to

nine players against Memphis,

with center Brad Miller, forward

Kenny Thomas and guard Cutti-

no Mobley expected to be out of

Miller is almost certain to miss

his fifth straight game with a

bruised calf. Kings coach Rick

Adelman said Monday, while

Mobley will miss his second

game because of a strained lower

the lineup.

and potentially cause a problem.

## **Heat keep rolling toward** securing top spot in East

MIAMI - The Miami Heat are leaving their Eastern Conference rivals behind.

Dwyane Wade scored 32 points, Shaquille O'Neal added 25 and the Heat heat the Philadel. phia 76ers 108-100 on Monday night to move a step closer to se curing the home-court advantage throughout the conference play-

Miami has won six straight the last four in a five-day stretch,

NRA roundup

age margin of 16.3 points — and 10 in a row at home "It doesn't feel easy, I'll tell you that,

and by an aver-

Wade said. "Right now, we're all playing together. Everyone's touching the ball. Everyone's happy playing with each other and if it looks easy, it's because of

With 20 regular-season games left, the Heat have an eight-game lead over Detroit in the conference and are 11 games in front of Washington in the Southeast Divi-

pretty impressive "It's stretch," Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said. "I was pretty happy with the way we played. We're playing more consistently, and more maturely, and playing the game at a high level. The first half was Miami's high-

est level of the season. The Heat set season bests with 63 points on 68.6 percent shooting in the half, and kept rolling in the second. O'Neal had 15 points and Wade 11 in the third period to help Miami push its lead to 22 points

"We cannot win if we play de-fense like that," said Allen Iver-son, who had 27 points for Philadelphia. "No way, no way we win this game with defense like that. Tonight they were hitting every thing, even when we were chal-lenging. We just couldn't stop them

Wade made 18 free throws to set a franchise record; he got to the line 23 times. Shandon Anderson added 13 points, and Udonis Haslem had a 12-point, 10-rebound night for Miami (46-16), 30 games over .500 for the first time since April 1998.

Samuel Dalembert added 21 points for the 76ers, who got only 10 points in 26 minutes from Chris Webber.

"We clearly didn't have what it takes to win tonight against a quality team," said Philadelphia coach Jim O'Brien, whose club fell a half-game behind Indiana in the chase for the East's eighth and final playoff spot.

Philadelphia outscored Miami 29-17 in the fourth quarter, holding the Heat to 30.8 percent shooting, outrebounding them 10-8 and forcing four turnovers. But by then, the Heat's struggles were irrelevant — and the team gets a well-deserved break from practice on Tuesday.

"I'm sleeping until noon, then getting up, having lunch and tak-



Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) shoots over Philadelphia's Willie Green (33) in the fourth quarter of Miami's victory. Wade scored 32 points.

ing a nap," Van Gundy said. O'Neal made Miami's first four shots of the second half, all from close range, to push Miami's mar-gin to 18 at 73-55. The lead got up to 79-59 with 6:51 left, before Dalembert keyed a 7-0 run.

He scored to start the burst then blocked O'Neal's shot Shaq's first miss in nine tries setting up a three-pointer from Kyle Korver. And when Korver scored on the next trip, Philadelphia was within 79-66

But Miami put the game away with an 11-3 run over a 2½-minute stretch. O'Neal scored the first five points, Wade followed with consecutive baskets, and O'Neal finished the burst by catching a three-quarter-court pass from Damon Jones and throwing down a monster dunk.

"We just have to worry about what we're supposed to worry about and keep beating the teams we're supposed to beat," O'Neal

"Keep winning at home, and keep staying above .500 on the road. If we do those things, then by that formula itself things will work out

Mavericks 113, Raptors 105: Marquis Daniels had a season-high 32 points and Jason Terry added 23 to help Dallas win at home without Dirk Nowitzki.

Nowitzki missed his second straight game because of a bruised left knee, and Dallas also played without the injured Michael Finley, Erick Dampier and Jerry Stackhouse.

Josh Howard added 22 points nd eight rebounds, and Keith Van Horn, subbing for Nowitzki had 19 points. Morris Peterson led Toronto with 23 points.

Nuggets 111. Trail Blazers 98: Carmelo Anthony had 23 points before sitting out the fourth quarter and Denver won its seventh straight game, the Nuggets' longest streak in 16

Denver is 14-4 under coach George Karl, has won eight straight home games and has made up 61/2 games on the Los Angeles Lakers in a little more than a month to tie for eighth in the West, Damon Stoudamire led Portland with 24 points.

Bulls 90, Bucks 85: Kirk Hinrich scored 12 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, and Chicago held off visiting Milwaukee for its 30th victory, tying the Bulls' most in a season since they won their sixth championship in 1997-98. Michael Redd led Milwaukee

Grizzlies 105, Clippers 102: At Los Angeles, Lorenzen Wright scored 23 points, Brian Cardinal had 20 and Memphis nearly blew a 13-point lead in the final 2:17 before beating Los Angeles for its fourth straight victory. Corey Maggette had 37 points for the Clippers.

### Bruised shin to sideline Magic's Hill for 2 games

CLEVELAND Orlando Magic forward Grant Hill will miss the next two games because of a bruised left shin, including Tuesday night's matchup with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Hill, who was kicked a week ago in a win against Sacramento, also will be out for Wednesday night's game at Toronto

Hill missed a game in December with a bruised right shin. Magic coach Johnny Davis said this latest injury is not related to the numerous left ankle problems that sidelined Hill for all but 47 games the previous four seasons.

"With anyone else, you would **NBA** scoreboard

Fastern Conference

Western Conference

Spattle

26 34 25 34 25 35

.742 .569 .534

ision 36 22 .621 31 27 .534 30 27 .526

#### Bulls 90. Bucks 85

MILWAUKE - J-Simit 2-8-5-8, Mason 6-9 1-2 Ib, Galzuric 3-0 0-18, Redd 19-20-6-5 & S. 1-2 Ib, Galzuric 3-10 0-18, Redd 19-20-6-5 & S. 1-2 Ib, Galzuric 3-10 0-18, Redd 19-20-6-5 & S. 8 cottl 0-6 0-8, Vision 3-12-18, Perp 6-9-0-2 & S. 8 cottl 0-6 0-8, Vision 3-12-18, Perp 6-9-0-2 & S. 9 6, Curry 6-11-4 16, Hirinft 6-16-5-17, Guiton 4-8-2-11, Platforwis 1-2-2-0-5, Charling 1-2-2-4-4-8, Total 3-73-18-2-3-08 Milwaukee 21-4-4-8, Total 3-73-18-2-3-08 Milwaukee - Mil

Three-Point Goals—Milwaukee 4-11 (Strick-land 2-3, Kuko 1-3, M Williams 1-3, Redd 0-2, Chicago 6-16 (Duhon 3-5, Piatkowski 1-1, No-cloni 1-2, Hirrich 1-4, Gordon 0-4, Fouled Out-None, Rebounds—Milwaukee 44 (J.Smith 12), Chicago 50 (Nocloni 8), Assists—Milwau-kee 24 (M.Williams 8), Chicago 52 (Duhon 10). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 21, Chicago 23, Tech-nicals—Milwaukee 2, Cach Porter, Chicago coach Solies, A-20042 (21,711).

TRONNTO - Bosh 5-11 3-1, Reputson 5-12 7-10 8-11 23, Arquip 2-4 0-04, Rose 6-14-2-16, Marshall 2-2 0-05, Bonner 6-14-2-16, Marshall 2-2 0-05, Bonner 6-14-16, Marshall 2-2 0-16, Marshall 2-2 0-2, Bonner 10-16, Marshall 2-2, Bradley 1-10-2, Daniels 13-30, Bonner 6-3, Marshall 2-2, Bradley 1-10-2, Daniels 13-30, Marshall 2

18 (Alston 7), Dallas 17 (Terry 6). Total Fo Toronto 20, Dallas 15. A—19,509 (19,200). Nuggets 111. Trail Blazers 98

Attanta at Boston Golden State at Detroit New Jersey at New Orleans San Antonio at Phoenix Chicago at Portland Thursday's games Minnesota at Miami L.A. Lakers at Dallas Monday Heat 108, 76ers 100

Indiana at Utah Houston at Seattle Memphis at Sacramento L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers Wednesday's ga Orlando at Toronto

Atlanta at Bosto

Heat 108, 76ers 100
PHIADELPHA : Korver 3-1-18, Webber
4-13 1-2, 10, Dalembert 6-14 5-22, Nerson
6-13 1-2, 10, Dalembert 6-14 5-22, Nerson
7, Supers 2-4-5-5, Juckson 2-5-6-64, Davis
0-1-6-05, Salmons 1-2-0-3, Green 4-8-3-31, University 1-2-12, University 1-2-2, Un

Miami onit Goals—Piliade 18.4 84.69 11 (now 50 18.5) (nor 14.1 Webber 1). Salmon 31.2, Davis 6.1.1 Green 0-3). Miami 4-13 (O.Jones 5-1). Boxis 6-11. B

## Falcons flying high since 6-5 start

### Air Force's new coach Mooney has things under control

BY RANDY HOLTZ

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — This is wrong, all wrong.

College basketball coaches are supposed to be old, crotchety guys, men sporting faces creased with years of worry, edgy men with nervous systems ravaged by the torments of knowing their professional fate is decided by unpredictable youngsters who barely need to shave.

Picture Bob Knight, Jim Calhoun, Gene Keady, tortured souls all.

Chris Mooney does not fit the mold, not even a little bit. He is 32 and looks young-

er. He is pleasant. He smiles a lot. The requisite intensity is there, yet it is all inside, not on his

But there are different ways to skin this college hoops cat, which Mooney has proved during an Air Force Academy season that further has established the Falcons as one of

the feel-good turnaround stories in the sport.

When Mooney took over at Air Force for one of his longtime mentors, promoted from an assistant's job after the departure of Joe Scott to their shared alma mater of Princeton after last season's worst-to-first transformation, the decision was a

Same system, same theories, many of the same players. Still, there was no guarantee Mooney would not drop the ball. As a major-college coach, he was as untested as they come, all youth and ambition.

He has not dropped the ball. He has carried it to the second-finest season in Air Force history, guiding the Falcons to an 18-11 record and the No. 3 seed in the Mountain West Conference tournament beginning Thursday in Denver.

He has done it with the same kind of attention to detail, the same kind of intelligence and precision that allowed Scott to turn a hopelessly overmatched program into a conference champion and NCAA tournament participant.

Mooney has done it with none of the over-the-top sideline theatrics of Scott, with none of the fiery-eyed, for-all-to-see passion that marked the tenure of his friend and former boss

If Scott is a Type A personality, Mooney is a Type Z. But there is no arguing with

"First and foremost, he's a natural leader, a guy people want to follow," said A.J. Kuhle, a senior starter on last season's 22-7 team and now a graduate assistant. "It's his overall attitude and approach, the way he carries himself. It's his knowledge, his enthusiasm and his energy.

"He hasn't changed at all from the past few years, except now he's the guy with the

final say."

Mooney performed this coaching gig before, but not at the NCAA Division I level.
He began at Lansdale Catholic High
School in his native Philadelphia, then
moved to Beaver College, a small-schools
program in Pennsylvania. Then Scott got
the Air Force job and brought Mooney
with him.

Until this season, Mooney was the behind-the-scenes guy, the enabler, the one keeping time behind the drums as Scott played front man. He watched and learned as Scott led. Now Mooney leads.

To Scott, whose first Princeton team has struggled with a 15-12 record and also-ran status in the Ivy League, Mooney's promotion was an easy decision. "I knew when he was playing for us at Princeton (when Scott was an assistant to Pete Carril and Bill Carmody) that Chris would be a coach someday," Scott said. "He loved to play and he knew how to play. He understood what it took to win. He understood the plan."

Now it is Mooney's job to get others to understand the plan. His methods of persuasion might be gentler than those of the extroverted Scott, but they work just the same.

"There were a lot of things involved in the transition," Mooney said. "Last season was such a magical season that when it was over, everybody was flying so high. It was like, 'Hey, everything's great.'

"And then Joe left and people were wondering where we were headed. I thought it was important to get to work right away on the players' mind-sets. I had to know where they were with all this.

"So on the afternoon of the morning press conference (announcing his promotion), we had individual workouts. I talked to every player individually. I wanted to make the transition as seamless as possi-

It was not all sunshine, flowers and chirping birds. Faced with the most challenging
nonconference schedule in school history
— Scott made stepping up the schedule a
top priority — Air Force opened 6-5. When
the Falcons lost 73-63 at Iowa on Dec. 28,
their third consecutive setback, folks
began wondering if Mooney's promotion
was the right thing after all.

The young coach didn't panic, the younger players became more comfortable in the system and the veterans ratcheted up their leadership.

leadership.

Since then, the Falcons have gone 12-6.

Their only Mountain West losses have come to conference champion Utah (twice)



Air Force's Tim Anderson draws a charge on Wyoming's Jerry Webb in the Falcons' victory last Saturday, their 18th of the season.

and on the road against Wyoming, New Mexico and UNLV.

The Falcons need to win the conference tournament to get a return trip to the NCAA tournament berth. The way they are playing, it is not outside the realm of possibility. If they cannot pull it off, they likely are headed to the NTT.

The NIT is not to be confused with the NCAAs, but through three decad0es of Air Force basketball misery, any sort of post-season appearance would have been grounds for a parade.

"Nothing has come easy for us," said senior guard Tim Keller, one of three returning starters. "There aren't a lot of teams willing to do what we do. Every night's been a battle.

"But coach Mooney has been there with us all along, making us better. I think he's done an unbelievable job in a very difficult situation. Every guy on this team has the utmost respect for him."

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**OPEN** Line

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## Despite its rank, BC feels snubbed $\left| \substack{\mathrm{Langford} \\ \mathrm{might} \; \mathrm{miss}} \right|$

### AD calls Big East 'petty' for giving trophy to UConn

BY JIMMY GOLEN The Associated Press

BOSTON 1 Skinner has what other coaches envy: A 24-3 record, two all-Big East players on the roster and an us-against-them snub to motivate his team in the conference tournament

If only he were interested. "If that's what's going to motivate you, then

you shouldn't be playing," Skinner said of the Big East's failure to schlep a trophy to the team's regular-season finale at Rutgers. "You've got to bring your own motivation

Boston College is leaving the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference next season, a decision that created no shortage of bad feel ings among fans, players and officials of the iilted league.

But dealings remained essentially cordial until BC athletic director Gene DeFilippo told reporters on Sunday the league was "petty" for giving regular-season co-champion Connecti cut - but not BC - a trophy after its finale.

"Our players and coaches had absolutely nothing to do with Boston College's decision to go to the Atlantic Coast Conference," DeFilippo said. "If the Big East has problems with me, let them take it out on me

Big East officials denied that they were out to get Boston College, noting that they were only in Storrs, Conn., to honor UConn's Jim Calhoun and Syracuse's Jim Boeheim, who each picked up his 700th victory. UConn officials asked them to bring the trophy in case the Huskies won.

"We have never presented a trophy at an away venue," Big East spokesman John Paquette said Monday.

Meanwhile, DeFilippo has gotten over the slight - or at least decided to accept it. He declined requests for comment on Monday. There was some disappointment about the

trophy situation, but today the mood at BC is all about hanniness" snokesman Chris Cameron said. "We're Big East champions with a No. 1 seed in the tournament and we're ranked seventh in the country. So life is good at Boston College."

Nothing motivates coaches and athletes more than disrespect — even Bill Belichick felt the need to play the card while the Patriots were on their way to a third Super Bowl victory in four years



Connecticut's Antonio Kellogg, left and Denham Brown, right, walk off the court with the Big East trophy after defeating Syracuse 88-70 on Saturday. Boston College, which is leaving for the ACC after this year, wasn't awarded a trophy after earning a share of the title later Saturday.

"Fuel to the fire," said Craig Smith, one of two BC players selected to the all-Big East team on Mon-

College scheduled to leave on Tuesday for New York, where they'll get their trophy at a banquet. The tournament starts Wednesday, with BC getting a bye until Thursday as a No. 1 seed: the Eagles will play West Virginia

"It bothers us and motivates us," Jared Dudley, the other all-Big East selection, said of the trophy flap. "We do think everybody's against us

'We know they don't want us to win the

44 We're Bia East champions with a No. 1 seed in the tournament, and we're ranked seventh in the country.

So life is good at Boston College. 77

portant thing," he said. "I'd like to believe that just the

**Chris Cameron** 

BC snokesman

is enough motivation." And another trophy will be presented on Saturday night

"They can't avoid that one," Skinner said.

championship in our last

year, but that's what we're

stands the rule about tro-

phy presentations at away

controversy could have been avoided if someone

But he'll take a pass on

"That's not the most im-

using it to fire up his team.

fact that you're playing for

the Big East championship

had told BC beforehand.

Skinner said he under-

es, and he thinks the

going to do."

# tournament

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Kansas guard Keith Langford, the Javhawks' second-leading scorer this season, was on crutches Monday and might miss this weekend's Big 12 tournament, coach Bill Self said Monday.

The injury to Langford's left ankle, which he hurt Sunday in the Jayhawks' loss to Missouri, is not as severe as first thought, Self said. But the loss dropped Kansas to No. 9 in the latest AP poll and might have cost the Jayhawks a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

"We picked a bad time yesterday when Keith went out basically to have guys not play well." Self said on the Big 12 coaches' weekly conference call with reporters. "We need for somebody to step up and be players like they

Langford, a senior who averages more than 15 points, had already scored five when he iniured his left ankle three minutes into the game. The Jayhawks went on to lose 72-68 and drop into a first-place tie for the regular-season title with Oklahoma.

Missouri's upset victory kept Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson tossing and turning all night with excitement. Tied with Kansas at 12-4, the Sooners captured a share of the conference title, their first since 1989. But because of their regular-season win over the Javhawks, they are the top seed in the Big 12 tournament.

### College scoreboard

#### AII-ACC

J.J. Redick, Dute: Chris Paul, Wake Forest:
Sean May, Note: Chris Paul, Wake Forest:
Sean May, Note: Shelden Williams,
Duke; Raymond Felton, North Carolina.
Second Team
Guillermo Diaz, Miami; Julius Hodge, N.C.
State; Eric Williams, Wake Forest; Jarett
Jack, Georgia Tech; Justin Gray, Wake Forest.

Third Team

Rashad McCants, North Carolina; Sharrod
Ford, Clemson; Nik Caner-Medley, Maryland;
Daniel Ewing, Duke; Jawad Williams, North
Carolina

#### All-Big 12

First team
Wayne Simien, Kansas; Joey Graham, Oklahoma State; John Lucas, Oklahoma States Ronald Ross, Texas Tech; Antoine Wright, Texas A&M.

Texas A&M. Second team
Taj Gray, Oklahoma: Curtis Stinson, Iowa
Stey, Kansas State, Kensas, Jeremlah Massey, Kansas State, Kehn Langford, Kansas,
Aaron Bruce, Baylor; Daniel Gibson, Texas;
Linas Kleiza, Missouri; Kevin Bookout, Oklahoma; Brad Buckman, Texas, Jr.

#### **All-Big East**

All-Big East
Hakim Warrick, First tame, Ryan Gomes,
Hakim Warrick, Boston College;
Jared Dudley, Boston College; Chevon Troutman, Pittsburgh, Gerry McNaman, Syracuse
Josh Boone, Connecticut: Charle Villanuea, Connecticut: Allan Ray, Villanova; Curris
Sumpter, Villanova; Carl Krauser, Pittsburgh.

Third team

Marcus Williams, Connecticut; Brandon Bowman, Georgetown; Chris Thomas, Notre Dame: Daryll Hill, St. John's: Randy Foye, Vili-

#### All-Conference USA

First team
Travis Deiner, Marquette; Francisco Garcia, Louisville; Curtis Withers, Charlotte; Eddie Basden, Charlotte; Quemont Greer, De-Paul.

Paul. Second team
Jason Maxiell, Cincinnati: Andre Owens,
Houston: Terrence Leather, South Florida:
Donell Taylor Alabama-Birmingham; Rodney
Carney, Memphis\_

Carney, Memphis.

Third team

Eric Hicks, Cincinnati; Corey Santee, TCU;
Darius Washington Jr., Memphis; Drake Deiner, DePaul; Taquan Dean, Louisville.

#### Wake suspends Paul for ACC tournament game ground, his older brother, Steve,

BY AARON BEARD The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. - Wake Forest star Chris Paul was suspended by the school for one game Monday for hitting North Carolina State's Julius Hodge in the groin during a game.

Paul, a sophomore point guard, will miss Friday's Atlantic Coast Conference tournament quarterfinal, the school said Monday. The Demon Deacons seeded second will play the winner of Thursday's Florida State-N.C. State game

Paul will be allowed to practice Tuesday and could return to the lineup Saturday if Wake Forest advances to the tournament semi-

Athletic director Ron Wellman said the school consulted ACC Commissioner John Swofford be fore announcing the suspension.

Paul apologized to Hodge, N.C. State, his teammates and Wake Forest's fans

"Sunday night was emotional for me for many reasons, and I let my emotions get the best of me," Paul said. "However, that is no excuse for my actions, and I fully accept and agree with my suspension

Paul is averaging 14.9 points and 6.6 assists and has been of the stars of the No. 3 Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3 ACC)

Hodge was not expected to comment Monday on Paul's suspension, N.C. State spokeswoman Annabelle Vaughan said.

in the first half set the tone for the game in Raleigh, which ended when he hit a runner just before the buzzer for a 55-53 win.

On the replay, Paul was behind Hodge as the lanky senior was battling for position to rebound a missed three-pointer by Ilian Evtimov. After Cedric Simmons got rebound. Paul reached around from Hodge's right side and hit him in the groin. Hodge, the reigning ACC player of the

year, crumpled to the court. With Hodge laving on the

walked onto the court to see if Julius was OK - and to vell toward Wake Forest's bench and the referees. After he left the court, Steve Hodge was escorted from Paul's low blow with 12:48 left the area.

Once Julius Hodge got up, he yelled and gestured toward Paul and the Demon Deacons' sideline on his way to the bench.

After the game, Paul said the

two simply became entangled. "I don't believe I popped him," Paul said. "It was just the heat of the game. I've got too much respect for him to try to pop him on senior night.'

When told that replays showed him hitting Hodge, Paul responded. "I haven't seen the replay.



Creighton's Tyler McKinney hoists the Missouri Valley Champs sign after his team beat Southwest Missouri State in the tournament final

### Creighton is in; MVC awaits more berths

By R.B. FALLSTROM The Associated Press

ST LOUIS - Creighton leaned heavily on its bench, and the usual barrage of three-pointers to win its fifth Missouri Valley Conference tournament in seven

Reserves Dane Watts and Jimmy Motz combined for half of the school's 12 three-pointers. and the Bluejays pulled away late for a 75-57 victory over South-west Missouri State in the championship game Monday night. "Motz and Watts really deliv-

ered for us," coach Dana Altman said. "It's an incredible feeling." Motz was 4-for-7

from three-point range and scored 12 for Creighton (23-10), which lost twice in the regular season to Southwest Missouri. was 2-for-4 three-point range and had 14 points

"I wasn't scared," Watts said. "I had to step up for my teammates.

Together, they helped Creightwhich averages three-pointers, overcome overall 43 percent shooting and an off game from leading scorer Nate Funk to earn a sixth trip in seven seasons to the NCAA tournament Johnny Mathies also had 14 points for the winners.

"Just providing the spark, I guess, has been kind of my role all year," Motz said. "The main thing is 10 guys found a way to get it done in three days, and we can relax this week and find out where we're going to be playing."

Deke Thompson had 14 points and Anthony Shavies 10 for Southwest Missouri (18-12), which also lost the tournament championship game last year and was shut out of the postseason. Southwest Missouri has been in the title game five times in the last eight seasons, but hasn't won since

Coach Barry Hinson said his team will get an NIT bid this season

"I'm actually looking forward to more basketball this season forward Tamarr Maclin said. "I mean, postseason is postseason.'

Conference commissioner Doug Elgin was ontimistic the Valley would receive three NCAA bids for the first time since 1999 with regular-season champion Southern Illinois, Wichita State and Northern Iowa also in the running. The Valley is ranked eighth in the RPI.

Southwest Missouri upset Southern Illinois in the semifinals, rallying from a 23-point second-half deficit.

"I feel pretty good about three teams," Elgin said. "This has been a groundbreaking year for us. I even think four teams is possible. The basketball community should respect our league." Creighton doesn't have to

worry about any of that.

"Well, it'll definitely make the week go better," Altman said. "It's definitely a relief."

Creighton has a season total of 285 three-pointers, second most Valley history, and was 12-for-25 in the title game. That helped the Blueiavs end a four-game losing streak against the Bears despite only eight points from Funk, 10 below his average, on 3-for-12 shooting. "He made a lot of opportunities

for his teammates because they naid so much attention to him but he didn't shoot it good," Altman said. "We were very fortunate that Jimmy picked up the three-point shooting, and Dane and other guys stepped up.'

The game seemed set for a tense finish when Maclin made a three-point play with 7:24 to go to cut Southwest Missouri's deficit to 52-50. But consecutive three-pointers by Tyler McKinney and Motz only 53 seconds apart put Creighton ahead 60-50 with four minutes left. 'You're like 'Wow!' " Hinson

"We just couldn't stop the bleeding. I would have liked for the ending chapter of this deal to he different.

# Loughton takes over in OT, VALLEY leads Monarchs to NCAAs

BY HANK KURZ JR. The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. - Old Dominion wanted to take the "if" out of its chances for making the NCAA tournament. Alex Loughton made it happen.

The Colonial Athletic Association player of the year took control of the game when the Monarchs needed him to Monday night, leading Old Dominion to a 73-66 victory against Virginia Commonwealth in overtime of the conference championship, and automatically into the field of 65.

The 6-foot-9 forward from Australia scored six of his 28 points in overtime, and the top-seeded Monarchs were clutch in the stretch, making their final 12 free throws to withstand the Rams' last-gasp

"I thought tonight was my night, and I was going to sort of outsmart and out-tough the opposition Loughton said after making 12 of 19 shots and grabbing 11 rebounds. "I really thought I found my niche

The Monarchs (28-5) might have been able to lose and still get in, but didn't relish waiting around until Selection Sunday to find out.

"We wanted to take care of our business our selves," said guard Drew Williamson, who played 91 minutes in the tournament without a turnover But it was Loughton, most of all, who made it so.

He scored on a drive with 52 seconds left in regulation, was fouled and made the tying free throw, Old Dominion's only points in the last five minutes of regulation. Then he took charge once overtime began.

"When it came time to make a play, it had to be made," he said. Once in the extra session, Loughton scored inside,

hit from about 17 feet and made two free throws, giving the Monarchs a 61-57 lead. They sealed it at the line, making 12 straight shots

to clinch their first NCAA berth since 1997 when VCU coach Jeff Capel's father took them there. "I just can't say enough about how strong of a will

our kids had to hang in there when everything was going right for the other team, and give ourselves a chance in regulation," Monarchs coach Blaine Taylor said. "We had no answer for Loughton," Capel said.

"He's a real, real good player — borderline great — and I don't throw that word around much."

The Rams (19-12) cut a 69-63 deficit in half on B.A. Walker's three-pointer with 13.9 seconds left, but Williamson hit a pair of free throws with 12 seconds to play and the Monarchs were finally tournament bound

Kiah Thomas scored 14 and Isaiah Hunter 13 for Old Dominion. Jesse Pellot-Rosa led the Rams with 15 points.

Walker had 14 and Nick George and Michael Doles each had 11, though both shot poorly.

Old Dominion's Alex Loughton celebrates after his MVP performance earned the Monarchs the Colonial Athletic Association title and an NCAA tournament bid.

'It was hard to get open looks, and when we did get them, we didn't knock them down," said Doles, a senior who came in averaging 15 points, but shot just 6-for-23 in the semifinals and championship.

The Rams, seeded second in the tournament, joined semifinals losers North Carolina-Wilmington and Hofstra in hoping for bids to the NIT.

'Hopefully we have at least one more game left,"

#### Men's automatic tournament bids

Central Florida, Atlantic Sun Conference Chattanooga, Southern Conference Creighton, Missouri Valley Conference Eastern Kentucky, Ohio Valley Conference Gonzaga, West Coast Conference Niagara, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Old Dominion, Colonial Athletic Association Pennsylvania, Ivy League Winthrop, Big South Conference

#### Mendez ends Niagara's 35-year wait BY JOHN WAWROW first since 1970 when the Calvin he was being a leader," Cruz said. "He showed he was the best play-

The Associated Press

BUFFALO N.V. - Juan Mendez can finally breathe easy. The weight of Niagara's 34-year

NCAA tournament drought is fi-Starting with a massive dunk. the senior forward hit 10 of his

first 12 shots and finished with 27 points in leading the Purple Eagles to an 81-59 win over Rider in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship on Monday night.

The win clinched Niagara's second NCAA tournament berth, and

Purple Murphy-led Eagles reached the second round. It also ended a string of frustrating close calls for a program that had lost two MAAC championship games in the last three years.

"It's huge," Mendez said. "Peonle have been waiting 35 years for this. And we finally got it

"We finally did it," added senior point guard Alvin Cruz.

It was extra special for Cruz to win with Mendez, teammates re-cruited together five years ago out of Florida Air Academy

"He was finishing everything.

er in this conference tonight Lorenzo Miles had 16 points

while David Brooks scored 12 and added nine assists for Niaga-ra (20-9), which lost 62-61 to Manhattan in last year's final. Mendez added 13 rebounds to be named the tournament's MVP.

A largely partisan Purple Ea-gles crowd — Niagara is located about 20 minutes from Buffalo stormed the court as the final buzzer sounded. It took officials almost 15 minutes to clear the court to present Niagara with its After 34 years, the wait was

worth it.

# **SPORTS**



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## **Gonzaga silences critics**

# Zags capture 6th WCC title in 7 seasons

BY JANIE MCCAULEY The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — This season started with talk that Gonzaga might no longer be the best team in the West Coast Conference.

It ended with the Zags on top for the sixth time in seven years. Adam Morrison scored 30 points and keyed a big second-half run to lead No. 11 Gonzaga to an 80-67 victory over Saint Mary's on Monday night in a meeting of the conference's top two teams.

"Obviously being how young we are, over the summer we heard to for whispers about us finishing second or fourth in this league, and it kind of put a little chip on our shoulders," said Morrison, the tournament MVP. "We read the Web sites. We heard what people were saying around town."

Ronny Turiaf added 18 points and 14 rebounds as the Zags (25-4) earned a seventh straight NCAA tournament bid with their 12th consecutive victory. Gonzaga beat the second-seeded Gaels in the title game for the second straight season.

Daniel Kickert scored 27 points with a career-high seven three-pointers, and Paul Marigney had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Saint Mary's (25-8), which still has a chance to earn the school's first NCAA tournament bid since 1997.

"I would have to question the process if we're out," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said. "We played in a good conference. We lost to a good team. I think we've done all we could do other than win tonight."

Morrison scored the Zags' first seven points after halftime, including a three-point play that started a 15-3 run. He threw his arm into the air to celebrate in the final minute and called for Gonzaga's many fans to rise to their feet.

"Adam's a big-time player,"
Zags coach Mark Few said. "The
bigger the moment, the better he
is. He is the reason we've run off
as many straight as we have. He's
defending and he's making everybody better on both ends."

Turiaf, who had four second-half blocks, responded with a big night after a poor performance in Gonzaga's 90-74 semifinal win over San Diego on Sunday.

Derek Raivio added 16 points to help Gonzaga snap the Gaels' five-game winning streak.



Gonzaga's Ronny Turiaf, left, is defended by Saint Mary's Frederic Adjiwanou in the second half of the West Coast Conference tournament championship game in Santa Clara, Calif., on Monday.

Of all the talented Gonzaga teams during the program's recent run, some say this could potentially be the best one.

After Kickert's three with 16:20 left pulled the Gaels to 41-40, Gonzaga scored 10 straight points and held the Gaels to one field goal in 10 minutes. Marigney scored five straight to pull Saint Mary's to 53-47 with 8:01 to go but the Gaels couldn't get closer.

The Bulldogs, who played in the tournament championship game for the eighth straight year,

haven't lost since a 73-70 defeat at San Francisco on Jan. 20.

Gonzaga's red-clad fans chanted "This is our house!" before the game, a reminder that the Zags have won eight straight in the Leavey Center, Santa Clara's

home arena.

Most of the sellout crowd was in red actually, one of the colors for both teams.

Kickert made five first-half three-pointers.

E.J. Rowland had six of his nine assists in the first half, but Saint Mary's started the second half 2-for-13, missed four crucial free throws and was sloppy with the ball. The Gaels committed three shot-clock violations and a halfcourt violation.

"We still had some good looks in the second half," Rowland said. "They just didn't fall our way."

The WCC has sent two teams to the tournament only five times in the last 15 years, but the Gaels are hoping their 25 wins will be the difference for the selection committee next Sunday.



Old Dominion locks up NCAA berth with CAA tournament title

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